The Texas Triangle

February 1, 2002 Vol. X Issue 17

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DJ Goes to Great Heights to Promote HIV/AIDS Testing

Black History Month marked by awareness campaigns, events

By Matt Lum

DALLAS — Several media outlets and community service groups combined forces to bring awareness to HIV and AIDS to communities of color in the metroplex, kicking off a month-long campaign this week.

Dallas radio personality, 97.9's Action Jaxon, climbed to the roof of Hard Rock Café at 6 a.m. Wednesday morning, vowing he would not come down until at least 197 people were tested for HIV/AIDS.

The promotion, broadcasted live on 97.9 The Beat, urged listeners in the metroplex to stop by the restaurant and take advantage of free oral HIV testing provided by the UT Southwestern Medical Center Community Prevention and Intervention Unit and the Resource Center of Dallas.

A recent survey conducted by researchers at UT Southwestern, called the Young Men's Survey, found that 1 in 3 homosexual African-American men aged 18-29 are infected with HIV.

"That means some areas of our city have higher infection rates than parts of sub-Saharan Africa," said Anthony Jacobs, a representative of Renaissance 3.

"Our goal is to get some culturally sensitive information out there," he said. "A lot of people need to see themselves in some of the materials that are out there, so we try to do that."

Renaissance 3 promotes HIV and AIDS awareness in the African American Community and will host National Black HIV/ AIDS Awareness Day on Feb. 7 at their South Dallas Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. location. This year's theme is "It takes a village."

"Although the junior Senator from New York said that, it comes from an old African proverb," Jacobs said. "We need to let people know so they can prepare themselves and make themselves aware of this epidemic in our community that is HIV/AIDS."

Kim Jones, an HIV specialist at Southwestern, noted that the overall infection rate for African American men, including both homosexuals and heterosexuals, is 1 in 50.

"The numbers in communities of color is two or three times higher than Caucasian populations," she said.

Researches say several circumstances contribute to the higher infection rates in minority communities, including cultural and religious stigma.

Santiago Pedraza, also with Southwestern, said the initial efforts put forth on HIV/AIDS prevention and education were primarily focused on white gay men, HIV's first targeted demographic.

"Fear also contributes," he said. "But we encourage people to get tested because, even though there is no cure, there are effective treatments. There is a benefit in finding out that you have it because you can do something about it. HIV is much more manageable than it was in the past."

Jones, who counsels test-takers at Southwestern's Zang Blvd. location, said resources are available for those who test positive.

"Some people are devastated and cry and wonder what they are going to do," she said. "But we take care of them immediately and offer referrals and programs to assist clients on a one-on-one basis."

Staff from the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse were also on hand at Hard Rock Café, passing out flavored condoms and lube as well as bleach kits to sterilize needles used for intravenous drug use, another risk factor for contracting HIV.

"We don't want you to stop having sex," said Jimmy Wiggington, "we want you to have the tools and knowledge you need to have safer sex and make smarter choices."

The Council works with drug and substance abusers to find appropriate rehabilitation and counseling. Since drug and alcohol use can impair judgment, risk for transmission is greater while intoxicated.

Action Jaxon started planning the HIV awareness effort several months ago, originally scheduling the event for Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. Those plans called for Jaxon to go on top of a billboard, but those plans were later shot down by insurance executives.

"So we looked for a new place and Hard Rock graciously allowed me to use their roof," Jaxon said.

Although not very hospitable, Jaxon's rooftop perch allowed him to look down over the people gathered below waiting to be tested. Dancers from the Dallas Mavericks, as well as models from the Men of Dallas calendar were on hand throughout the day to encourage attendance and testing.

"I think getting tested is very important," said Laurie Ferguson as she signed a Dallas Maverick's Dancer poster. "What Action is doing is great for the community. He said he would sleep up there until a lot more people got tested."

By 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jaxon's on-air pleas had already resulted in over 60 tests, but with 130 to go, there was little doubt he would be on the roof through the night.

"Hopefully I will be down from here pretty soon," he said. "The weather is changing quite drastically."

When he first went on the roof Wednesday morning, temperatures were moderate, reaching a high near 70 before a cold front blew in bringing rain and icy winds.

> *It's very important to me that the African-American community gets the word that AIDS and HIV is a killer and it's not going away, it's here to stay."*
>
> *— Action Jaxon*

"I am going to sleep up here. I've got a tent and sleeping bag on the way," Jaxon said. "I am sucking it up."

Although Jaxon is not gay himself, he is not homophobic either, he says.

"I have a lot of gay friends, and for me, working with HIV and AIDS is very dear to my heart. HIV/AIDS does not only affect gays, it affects everyone," he said.

Jaxon said it is necessary to have heterosexuals pressing for awareness because many still believe AIDS is a gay-only disease.

"I think the numbers in the metroplex are alarming concerning African-American men," he said. "For local men in their thirties, it's almost the number one killer. It's very important to me that the African-American community gets the word that AIDS and HIV is a killer and it's not going away, it's here to stay."

Jaxon said not enough people are being tested.

"You need to know your own status so if you are positive you can get treatment and live longer," he said. "If you don't know your status you could go around infecting everybody."

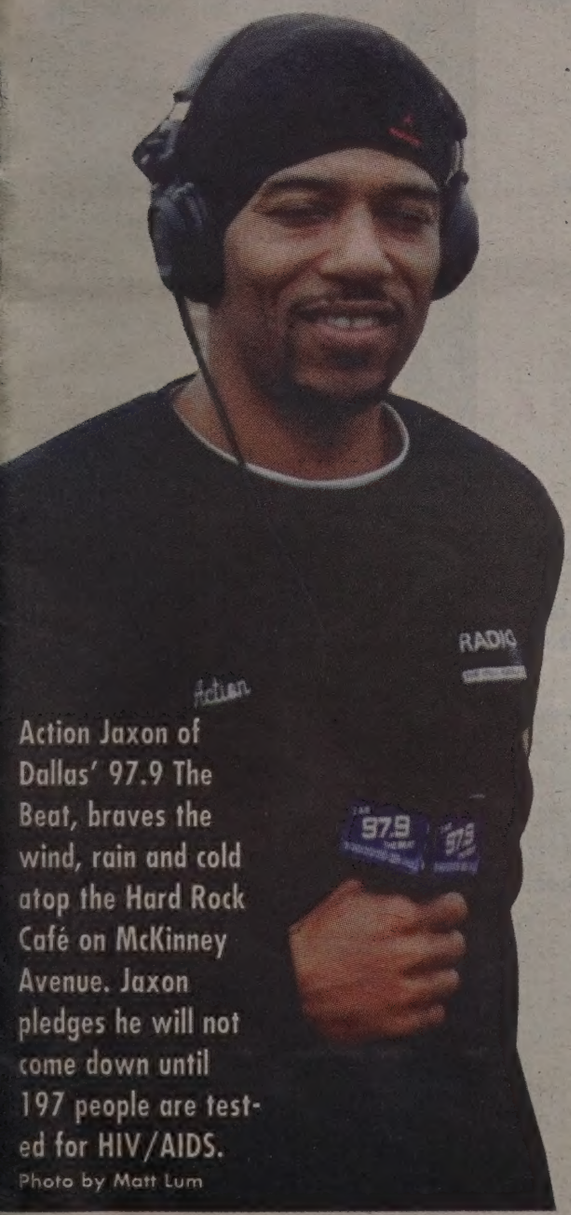
Jaxon has been involved with numerous AIDS awareness initiatives including the Pallata AIDS Rides in D.C. and San Francisco. He also participated in Dallas' Lone Star Ride and co-hosted Razzle Dazzle's 2001 street party, bringing 97.9 The Beat with him to promote the event.

"97.9 is a community radio station and Radio One is very supportive of that community," Jaxon said, adding his community service initiatives are attributable in part to The Beat's founder, Cathy Hughes.

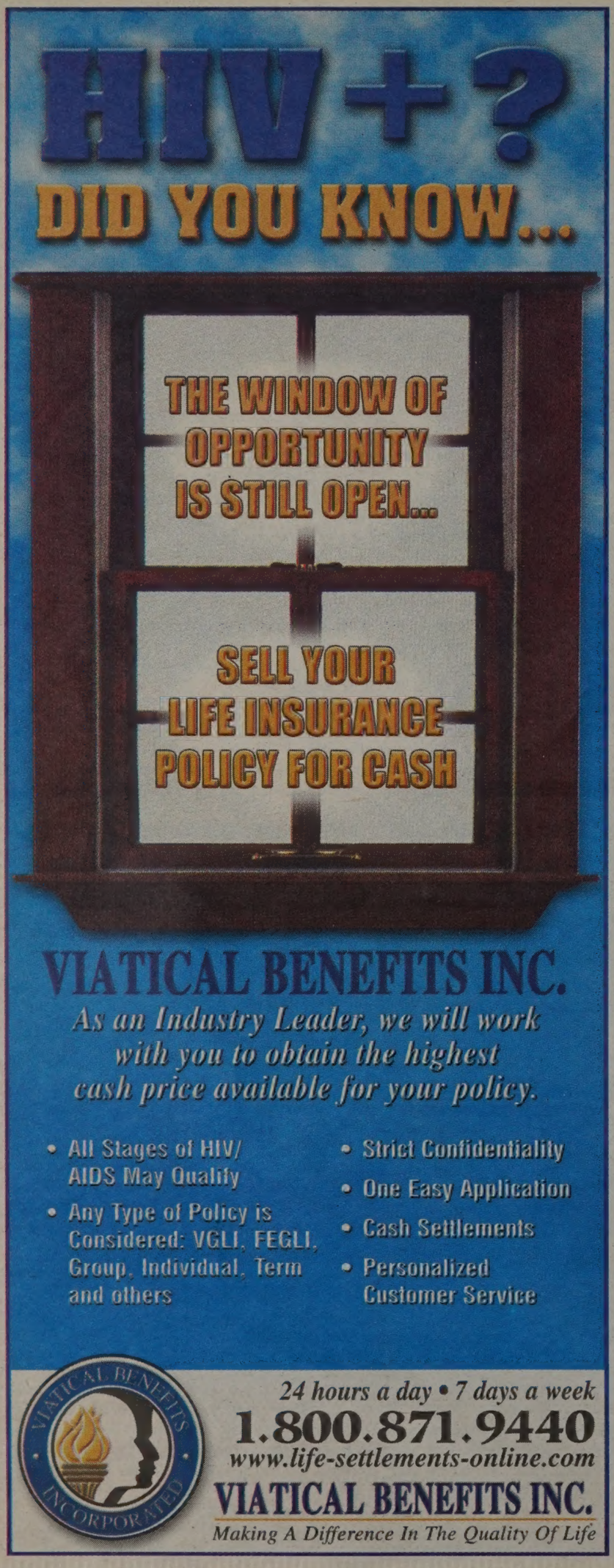
The Dallas County Health Department, East Dallas Counseling Center and Human Services Network and members of Razzle Dazzle Dallas were also on hand Wednesday. National companies including Invincible Sports and Mary Kay Cosmetics also gave away merchandize and gift certificates at the testing drive.

For more information on HIV / AIDS resources in the Metroplex, access: www.resourcecenterdallas.org. For more information on Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. contact Renaissance 3 or 97.9 The Beat.

Action Jaxon can be heard on the air weekdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Action Jaxon of Dallas' 97.9 The Beat, braves the wind, rain and cold atop the Hard Rock Café on McKinney Avenue. Jaxon pledges he will not come down until 197 people are tested for HIV/AIDS.
Photo by Matt Lum



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Police Investigate Transgender Murder

By Clarence Burton Bagby

HOUSTON — A transgender person was found murdered Saturday morning in southwest Houston near Club Inergy, a nightclub that caters to Houston's Hispanic gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Although dressed in women's clothing, the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office determined that the person was a Hispanic male. "He was dressed in a halter top, blue denim jeans, silver high heels with straps and a woman's wig with curly brown hair," said Rudy Flores, executive administrator for the Medical Examiner's Office. "He also wore makeup, but he was a male."

Before a gender determination was made by the Medical Examiner's Office, the *Houston Chronicle* reported in Sunday's edition "Man in drag found shot dead." Longtime transgender activist Sarah DePalma took exception to the *Chronicle*'s coverage.

"I'd like for the *Chronicle* to get the pronouns right, just once," said DePalma, director of the Texas Gender Advocacy Information Network (TGAIN), a statewide lobbying group working for transgender equality. "It's premature to say the victim is a man in drag; we don't know if the person was a cross dresser, transsexual or a person who does drag and it's inaccurate reporting to draw that conclusion without all of the facts."

The Chronicle story said the victim "had shoulder-length, reddish-brown hair," but the Medical Examiner's Office later determined the victim was wearing a wig.

"He had multiple gunshot wounds," Flores said, "with wounds to the left neck, left arm and left chest."

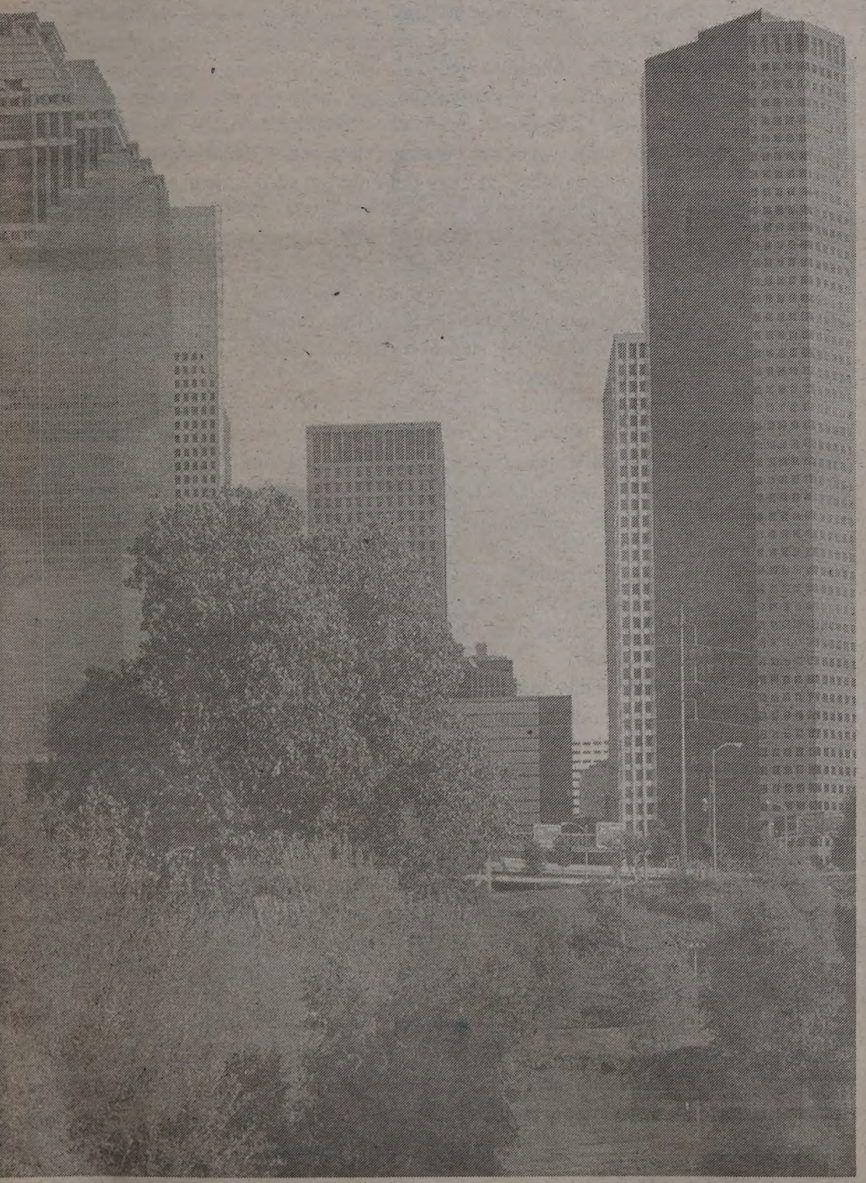
Later identified by Houston police as Hugo Cesar Barajas of Baytown, the man's body was found in a hallway of a commercial complex in the 5300 block of Glenmont Drive, according to J.C. Bonaby III, the Houston Police Department's investigating officer. Barajas was 27 years old.

"We're certainly looking into the possibility that this may be a hate crime," said H.P.D. Executive Assistant Chief Joe Breshears, "and will determine that during the course of our ongoing investigation."

H.P.D. Homicide Division Sergeant L.D. Foltz said they had determined that Barajas left "Viviana's on Washington Avenue in the Old West End in the company of a Hispanic male patron in route to Club Inergy and he never made it there."

Foltz said Barajas' car was found abandoned at an auto repair shop in the 800 block of East Crosstimbers in north Houston. The officers are continuing to interview potential witnesses.

Police Spokesman Joe Laud said at press time that the motive is unknown and no witnesses or suspects have been identified yet. "Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the H.P.D. Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS," Laud said. "As with all murder cases, Crime Stoppers is offering a reward for information."



Caucus President Resigns Due to Illness

By Clarence Burton Bagby

HOUSTON — Citing immediate health concerns, Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus President Deborah Squires Rogers, resigned Monday.

Rogers, Caucus president since May 2001, said the work of the Caucus would proceed seamlessly and expressed confidence in the leadership of Ken Jones, Caucus vice president.

"I have every confidence in the leadership of Ken Jones, the vice president, and now acting as president of the Caucus," Rogers said.

Jones said he would lead the Caucus for the next few months and was seriously considering placing his name in nomination for president.

The Caucus is the oldest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil right organization in the South, having been founded in 1975. The group lobbies elected officials and educates the public on GLBT equality issues. It's affiliated HGLPC Political Action Committee screens and endorses candidates and educates the public on electoral politics.

"We encourage people who want to see the Caucus accomplish its very important task of screening and endorsing candidates to come to meetings and get involved," said Jones. "One of the most important things the Caucus does is to educate the public on candidates' positions and records and we always need more people in order to do that better."

"We have great people involved in the Caucus so this transition will be smooth," said Mark Wood, Caucus treasurer and also president of the Stonewall GLBT Democrats of Houston. "We have some great plans for expanding our resource toolbox in order to expand services to the community, and we have some great people in place to accomplish those goals."

The Caucus Political Action Committee Primary Endorsement meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett. While the public is invited to attend only members may cast ballots. For information, access www.hglpc.com.

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Study Quantifies HIV Infection Risks

Receptive anal sex 100 times more risky than receiving oral

By Matt Lum

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control have combined countless research studies and the latest information about HIV/AIDS infection to calculate the estimated risk of HIV infection from certain sexual acts, according to a report in the January issue of the Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Although experts warn that relying on such numbers could spell trouble, knowing the relative risks may help sexually active persons to make healthier choices about their sex life.

Co-author of the study, Dr. Thomas Peterman, says there is a variety of ways to reduce the risk of infection, "But the question is how much impact that has had on their risk," he said.

Researches examined the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which they estimated to be 20,000 infections per year in the United States. Taking into account the condom failure rate and the accuracy of HIV tests, and postulating that 10% of gay men are HIV-positive and 1% of heterosexuals are, researches developed a mathematical formula to quantify the risk.

According to the study, performing oral sex is twice as risky as receiving oral sex. When compared to receiving oral sex, insertive anal sex was found to be 13 times more dangerous and receptive anal sex 100 times more risky.

Researchers also estimated that not wearing a condom is 20 times more risky than using one. They also said the risk of getting AIDS is one in 2,000, per act, for men who have receptive anal sex with men whose HIV status in not known to them. The risk fell to one and 2.5 per 100,000 if one precaution was taken, such as wearing a condom or knowing your partner has tested HIV-negative.

"Many people are in denial and pretend they can enjoy gay sex like they did 25 or 30 years ago," renowned AIDS expert Dr. Michael Gottlieb told The Triangle. "This new study, for the first time, puts hard numbers on paper. We had a general idea of these risks before, but we haven't seen them presented in such a clear way."

Dr. Gottlieb was the first physician to describe in medical journals what would later come to be known as AIDS. He was Rock Hudson's doctor, and following the actor's death from AIDS, joined with Elizabeth Taylor to launch American Foundation for AIDS Research, or AmFAR. He was also instrumental in forming the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, established by his patient Elizabeth Glaser.

Gottlieb warned that some recent studies on the effectiveness of condoms indicated a 13% failure rate, raising concern.

"Although the use of condoms can reduce risk by 85-95%, there are problems due to slippage, breakage, and incorrect use, bringing the effectiveness rate to as low as 60 or 70%," he said. "We encourage condom use, and we reassure people that condoms make sex safer, but we need to quantify that and discuss the problems of failure rate more effectively."

With such grave risks facing men who have sex with men, Gottlieb says, especially in big cities, sex is more dangerous than ever before.

"When people have sex they often throw caution to the wind and do what feels good," he said. "But information like this, studied ahead of time, will allow people to make more rational choices."

Because sex is a basic fact of life, abstinence is not a realistic route, says Gottlieb. "People are going to have sex. It can be made safer, but not 100% safe."

One of the first testers of the AIDS drug AZT, Gottlieb continues to conduct clinical drug and research trials in is Los Angeles clinic. Drug developments over the last few years have increased lifespan for people with AIDS, but such progress puts younger generations at risk, Gottlieb said.

"Young people, particularly because they have a greater faith in drug therapy than is warranted, believe even if they do become positive, they will be guaranteed a normal lifespan by the cocktail," he said. "Life for people taking these medications can be pretty miserable."

Drug resistant forms of the AIDS virus have also been discovered recently, so drug therapy may not always be effective.

Physicians and AIDS researches say the new infection risks published can offer great insight and allow better decision making, but encourage gay men to take multiple precautions when having sex. They say the numbers should not be taken literally, rather used "a barometer" of sexual risks.

70+ Democrats Seek Stonewall's Endorsement

Kirk, Bentsen vie for gay votes

By Clarence Burton Bagby

DALLAS — With the Democratic Primary less than two months away, 72 of the 74 Democratic candidates on the ballot are seeking the support of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, according to Tim McMullen-Sullivan, the group's president.

"In the last election, around 55 candidates asked for endorsement for the primary," McMullen-Sullivan said. Stonewall is the Dallas area's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Democratic group.

There are 20 contested races in the March 12 Democratic Primary for Dallas County. Each candidate has been sent a questionnaire that includes basic questions about the candidate's level of support for GLBT equality issues.

"Sometimes we are splitting hairs because they can both be very pro-gay – it's hard to choose from between them," said David Morris, a member of the group's board. "We are a key constituency, and our goals for GLBT equality are coming to fruition," he said, pointing out that all three candidates in the recent Dallas mayoral election "were out there saying they supported a non-discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation – we really have come a long way our fight."

Morris also points to the power of the GLBT vote as a major reason that candidates seek his group's support. "We deliver a good many votes in a good many different precincts, from Oak Lawn, to Uptown, to Oak Cliff," he said.

An example of this political pull is evidenced in the latest constable election.

"Who would have thought a white gay man would win in minority Oak Cliff? He asked. "But Mike Dupree won against a Hispanic man in Oak Cliff."

In the heavily GLBT Oak Lawn, Oak Cliff and Uptown precincts, in the 2000 election, 12,000 voters turned out, according to Morris, which is better than the average turnout.

The group's questionnaire includes basic questions such as the candidate's willingness to hire a GLBT staff member and to have a non-discrimination employment policy.

Unlike other endorsement processes, the Stonewall questions are office-specific.

"We don't ask constables about same sex partnership benefits and adopting children," Morris said, "that would be silly. We ask them how they would handle issues like same sex spousal abuse and crime in gay neighborhoods."

Morris also pointed out the importance of the county judge position in regard to the distribution of federal Ryan White (HIV/AIDS) funds.

"All Ryan White funds flow through the county, so even though it's federal money, the county judge has a great deal of control over how that money is spent," he said.

McMullen-Sullivan said that although all candidate responses are confidential and will not be distributed publicly, they are discussed openly at the endorsement meeting. "We let them know that our endorsements are only published in the GLBT newspapers and on our push cards," he said. "It's our purpose to get out the GLBT votes for these candidates and to let them use the endorsement however they see fit. We don't want our endorsement to be an albatross around their neck."

McMullen-Sullivan said Stonewall remains the largest Democratic group in Dallas County. "We want to be bigger though - we really do - we only have 250 dues paying members, and we know there are more GLBT Democrats in Dallas," he said.

The group meets on the second Tuesday every month at Rolondo's Mexican Restaurant at 5486 Denton Drive.

All candidates have signed up for a fifteen-minute time slot during which their questionnaire answers are read aloud. They will then make an opening statement followed by a question and answer period. All candidates, or their representatives, will speak.

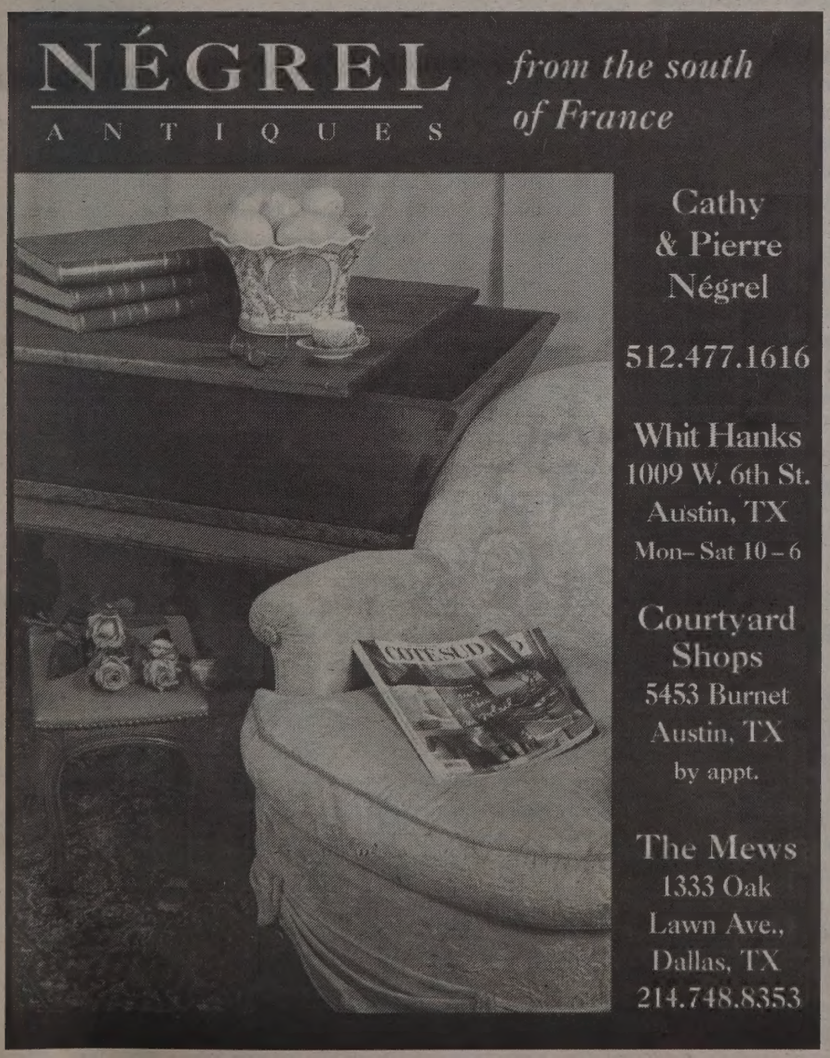
State Representative Glen Maxey will speak for gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez while former openly gay city councilmember Craig Holcomb will speak for U.S. Senate candidate Ron Kirk. Congressman Ken Bentsen, also a candidate for the U.S. Senate, will have a representative speak on his behalf as well.

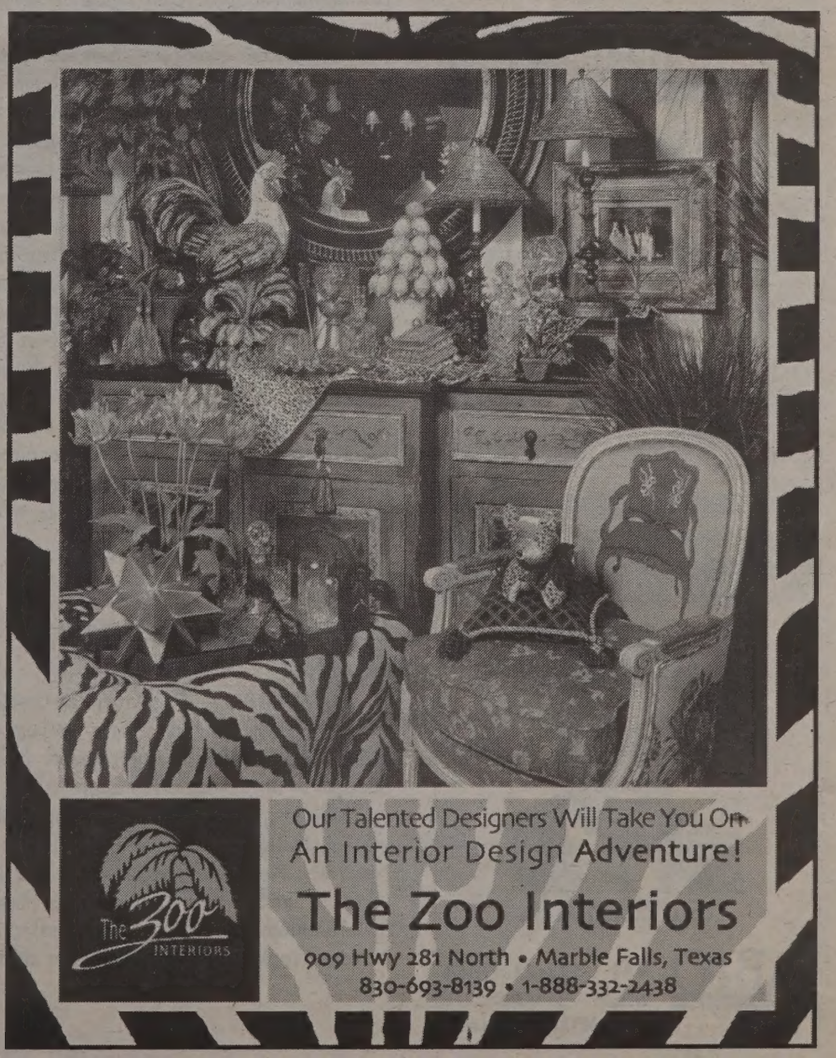
"Surprisingly, in Texas, not all Democrats are GLBT-friendly," McMullen-Sullivan said, "And we may have some of those coming here. We've had candidates come and say 'I don't believe in your lifestyle, it's wrong, and you are all going to hell, but I don't think the government has any right in your bedroom - you should have every benefit that straight people have' which is better than being totally opposed to GLBT equality."

While only Stonewall members may vote in the endorsement process, the meeting is open to the public. The endorsement hearings will be from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, February 2 and Sunday, Feb. 3 at the John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center at the corner of Reagan and Brown. Voting on endorsements will take place at 5 p.m. at the close of the meeting Sunday.

For more information, access www.stonewalldemocrats.org/dallas

Matt Lum contributed to this report.





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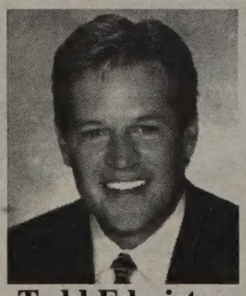

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National News

By Ann Rostow

California Trashes Anti-Adoption Ruling Pending High Court Review

SAN DIEGO — "Dear Friends and Family" writes Annette Friskopp, the woman who was on the receiving end of the late October California appellate case that seemed to invalidate second-parent adoptions, "Joshua and I received some very good news yesterday. The California Supreme Court has agreed to review my case for his adoption! I learned of the news when I received a call from the *San Francisco Chronicle* while I was sitting watching a video with Zachary.

"Twenty minutes later Joshua came to my house for visitation. He ran into my arms and said, "Mommy" and I said, "Yes, I am!" Zachary, Joshua and I celebrated by making oatmeal and raisin cookies (Joshua's pick)."

Friskopp, as you may recall, was in the process of adopting her younger son, Joshua, when she broke up with her partner, Sharon Silverstein. After a round of litigation in Friskopp's favor, Silverstein asked the 4th District Court of Appeals in San Diego to declare that second-parent adoptions were illegal throughout the state. To the astonishment of gay lawyers throughout the country, the court agreed, singling out a minor technicality that had been ignored by the state of California for about 15 years. Over that period, maybe as many as 20,000 gay parents had adopted their children using the now-discredited procedure. And to make matters worse, the San Diego panel implied that these adoptions might be retroactively void.

The appellate court took the edge of its opinion with a clarification indicating that the ruling was not intended to comment on the legality of current adoptions. But still, the opinion was there, the first appellate ruling ever on the validity of California's second-parent adoption procedures, and a ruling which struck those procedures as illegal. In an email sent Wednesday morning, a few hours before Friskopp's message, Lambda's senior West Coast attorney Jennifer Pizer called the Supreme Court's decision "wonderful news." By agreeing to review the case, says Pizer, the Court "automatically depublishes the terrible decision issued this fall by the Court of Appeals.... It is an enormous relief to have that decision removed." What that means, is that no other lawyer can use the San Diego ruling to bolster his or her attack on a gay or lesbian parent. Assuming that the high court reverses, the three-month nightmare for California parents is over. The review, says Pizer, could take a year or two.

Lesbian Battles New York For Unemployment Benefits

NEW YORK — The American Civil Liberties Union went to the mat the other day for a 38-year-old lesbian who was effectively denied unemployment benefits in New York because of her sexual orientation.

What happened was this: In late 2000, Jeanne Newland's partner, Natasha Doty, got a new job in Richmond, Virginia. Naturally, Newland gave notice at her Rochester, New York company, and moved south with her partner of four years. For awhile, things were fine as Doty settled in to her new job and Newland looked for work. But after six months of interviews, Newland began to worry about finances. A neighbor suggested she investigate whether she was eligible for unemployment benefits in New York. So after checking out the local office, Newland got the contacts she needed and made some calls.

"I contacted the New York office and they wanted to know the circumstances with which I left my last job," Newland told the *Triangle*. "And I told them that my significant other had found employment in Virginia so I voluntarily quit my job to relocate with my partner.

"During the interview process, the woman asked me if I was married to my significant other, so I said no. And I said: 'assuming my employer backs up everything I told you, will I be able to qualify?' And she said no. So I asked her why not, and she said: 'Because you didn't relocate with your spouse.' And I said 'Okay, are there any other circumstances that would apply or does it absolutely have to be a spouse?' And she said: "Well, you know if, as an example, you were engaged to get married but the marriage wasn't going to happen until after you moved to the new state, then that might be a circumstance in which we might make an exception and offer you the benefits.' And so I hung up the phone with her, and it just really bothered me a lot."

Newland called the woman back to make sure that she understood that Newland's "significant other" was a woman, and that the relationship they shared was as committed as any marriage, let alone an engagement. "In my mind," she said, "there was no one more committed that me and my partner. And I thought if she understood that I was in a committed relationship, then obviously, I would be one of those scenarios that could be an exception to that rule. And she said: 'it's certainly an interesting case. I've never had this come up before, so let me do a little investigating. I have to check a few things and I'll get back to you.' And then she got back to me and said: 'Unfortunately, [the rule is] specific in stating the word spouse, and on that basis, we're going to have to deny you benefits and we'll be mailing you something in writing to that effect.'

"That's when I got my letter saying that I had been denied benefits, because if you relocate out of the state of New York for a person anyone other than a 'spouse,' it's considered not to be 'good cause.' And that just didn't seem right. It didn't seem fair, and so I thought that maybe I could talk to someone to see if maybe anyone else agreed that this should be taken a look at."

At least one group of people agreed with her, the American Civil Liberties Unions' Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, who accompanied Newland to a hearing before a New York Administration Law Judge on January 24. In a 10-page legal memorandum, the ACLU reminded the Department of Labor that the state's highest court has already interpreted the word "family" to include "two adult lifetime partners whose relationship is long term and characterized by an emotional and financial commitment." It seems inconsistent, to say the least, to deny Newland and other same-sex life partners, the benefits that would accrue to unmarried heterosexuals who merely planned to get married in the near future.

"We all know the world's not fair," Newland told the Triangle. "But it just doesn't seem right that they take that money out of my paycheck, just like everyone else. Obviously,

I'm not going to let my partner relocate to another state and not go with her - that's just not going to happen - and it seems unfair to penalize me for going with her to try and better our lives together. It just seemed worth fighting for."

In other New York news, the state assembly passed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) by an overwhelming 115-27 vote on January 28. SONDA has been an object of legislative wrangling in New York since the early '70s. And while the bill has passed the Assembly several times, it has never been brought up for a vote in the state senate. We'll see what happens this time.

Unappealing Ruling Out of Georgia

ATLANTA — The Georgia Court of Appeals has returned a verdict in a case watched around the country, by virtue of its comment on the legality of civil unions outside Vermont. Called *Burns vs. Burns*, the case pitted a lesbian divorcee against her ex-husband. Both parties had signed a consent decree, agreeing that they would not have their children visit in the presence of an unrelated adult. But when Susan Burns, now Susan Freer, (she took her partner Debra's last name), conducted a civil union and moved in with her partner, all bets were off. Freer's husband, Darian Burns, filed a motion asking the court to hold his ex-wife in contempt, for "cohabitating with her female lover." Freer, in turn, asked the court to recognize her civil union as a form of being legally related under the terms of the visitation order. When Freer lost, she appealed.

On Wednesday, January 23, the court ruled that a Vermont civil union carries no legal weight in Georgia, and that even a same-sex marriage would be irrelevant due to the Peach State's anti-marriage recognition laws. Speaking to the *Triangle*, Kate Kendell, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, says the ruling was "not unexpected, given that it's from Georgia." That said, Kendell calls the ruling "manifestly unfair in forever putting Susan in the position where she must either have visitation with her children or spend time with her partner, but she is legally precluded from doing both at the same time."

Kendell said the case illustrated why the NCLR and other legal groups would always advice clients to avoid consent decrees in the first place. "That restriction is a very common one for courts to enact," she says, speaking of the sort of clause that disallows unrelated overnight guests, "but we always advise clients to never agree to such a provision. Don't leave it to us to litigate whether in fact the provision is going to be enforced. Just don't sign it to begin with."

Although an appeal is possible, Kendell says the likelihood of prevailing was "very difficult," adding that the appellate court's ruling "was bad enough without inviting the state supreme court to make it worse."

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News With A View

By Ann Rostow

Curiosities

Since I'm having a hard time beginning this column, I will start with the two most interesting items on my list. First, the *Toledo Blade* reports that children's book character Curious George was originally called "Zozo" in the Britain of the 1940s for two reasons: out of deference to King George, and because "curious" was a euphemism for homosexual at the time. I like that, don't you? Let's use that today.

Second, I have here a headline from *CBC News*, that reads: "English amnesiac may be porn star," and leads with: "A man who tried to convince Canadian authorities that he was an uppercrust Englishman suffering from memory loss, may in fact be a gay porn star from France." I kid you not! Isn't that the best opening line you've encountered in a news dispatch for some time? There's not much more to the story actually. Some cute guy in his late 20s showed up at a hospital in Toronto a while back and said he had been mugged and couldn't remember his past life. Recently, and it's not clear how, the man has been recognized as the star of porn videos and pix in *Euroboy* magazine. He is now living in seclusion in Vancouver and authorities are beginning to doubt his amnesia story. Curious, n'est ce pas?

An Enchanted Evening

I went to *South Pacific* last night with my *Texas Triangle* buddies and my parents, and hence skipped the State of the Union address. With apologies to the Log Cabin Club and my friend Dale Carpenter, I can't stand the sound of George W. Bush's voice and I absolutely hate his strange phrasing that gives you the impression he's not listening in his mind to what he's reading off the teleprompter. I do not believe this is an unpatriotic observation. At any rate, I missed the speech and I understand we have named the trio of North Korea, Iran and Iraq "an axis of evil." Not that I approve of these three regimes, but must we be so melodramatic? Sounds like the cover text of a Superhero comic book.

South Pacific was great. But unfortunately, I now have the inane song "Happy Talk" running through my mind. "Happy, happy happy happy talk! Talk about things you like to do! You gotta have a dream. If you don't have a dream. How're you gonna have a dream come true?" Try writing about adding sexual orientation to the Delaware state anti-discrimination statute with that going on in your subconscious. Want to hear about it? Well, according to the Wilmington News Journal of Jan. 29, a hundred people "packed" the hall for the state senate small business committee hearing on the proposal the previous day, and an overflow crowd of a couple hundred more people were hanging around outside the chambers. Oh, and even more people "milled" around outside the building. About three dozen witnesses testified on one side or another, including one fellow who was worried about the cost to small businesses of defending against discrimination suits. I hate that argument, don't you? Just don't discriminate and you'll save all that money. Plus, experience is continuing to show us that protecting against gay bias in the workplace does not lead to a sudden surge of legal claims from curious workers.

ENDA Way We Go

By the way, speaking of protecting gays on the job, Tom Daschle and Ted Kennedy have both recently addressed their Senate colleagues on the subject of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA), which is floating around in both Houses of Congress. The conservative *Washington Times* produced one of their signature lead sentences on the subject, to wit: "Senate Democrats are calling attention to the deaths of homosexuals on September 11 to promote the passage of a workplace anti-discrimination bill and hate-crimes legislation." I hate the word "homosexuals." I spit on the *Washington Times*. Ptew. Ptew. Oh, I just looked ahead in my news pile and realized that we're about to discuss the ongoing, and (it seems) never ending story of the Minnesota public employees' battle for domestic partner benefits. Can you wait? Oh forget the long-winded version. I'll just tell you that the Minnesota senate rules committee defeated a motion to strip the benefits from state employee contracts on a 11-10 vote. Both houses of the state legislature have to approve the contracts at some point, and meanwhile, we'll be keeping a close eye on the story. Naturally.

Let The Games Begin!

What's going on with the Bush girls? As Gilda would say, "It's always sumpthin.'" Not that I have anything against substance abuse. It's one of my favorite things." Moving on with news, the Human Rights Campaign has issued a statement of support for the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee, because it seems said committee has been gay inclusive. They call it "SLOC" in the press release, and I think we all agree that SLOC deserves a big GLBT pat on the back. "This past year," says local activist Paula Wolfe, "SLOC reached out to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community living along the Wasatch Front." My only comment is: show me the money! Everyone else got some, right?

Of Freshmen and Groundhogs

It's always interesting to see the results of that massive annual poll of entering college freshmen. And this year, I'm happy to say that attitudes are more liberal and that approval of curious marriage is up from 50.9 percent in 1997, and 56 percent in 2000, to 57.9 percent. That's an excellent trend. But the survey this year was taken just before September 11, so I'm not sure what we can make of it. Yes, we're all joking around again, and yes, we can knock Pretzel-Mouth and his out-of-control family. But you know. We're all changed. Just mentioning the subject has dampened the silliness that has been floating through the space between my ears. So I will pause, if you don't mind, to sing "Happy Talk" to myself a couple of times before I continue.

There, that's better. But speaking of post-Sept. 11, our vigilance against terrorism is so acute at this point, that the people in charge with sending the groundhog out to see his shadow in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, have arranged for armed troops to provide security on Feb. 2. According to Reuters, a combination of state troopers, national guard, and bomb-sniffing dogs will be on hand to make sure - to make sure of what? - that Islamic fanatics, perhaps from the Axis of Evil, don't turn the bucolic harmony of Groundhog's Day in Punxsutawney into a discordant nightmare of terror? "Although some local residents had thought about canceling the event because of the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington," writes Reuters, "[Groundhog club President Bill] Cooper said that city leaders felt the event would show the world the nation's 'resiliency.'" And indeed it does. Courage, thy name is Punxsutawney Pete.

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Talk About A Boy, Sayin' To A Boy...

Do you remember the Jenny Jones talk show murder case from a few years ago? The scene was set by a 1995 Jones episode about "secret crushes." Egged on by the show's producers, Scott Amedure went on the air and announced a secret crush on his friend, Jonathan Schmitz. Three days later, Schmitz took a shotgun, went over to Amadure's house and killed him. He was convicted in 1999 of second-degree murder. In a strange twist to the story, Amadure's family turned around and filed a civil suit against Jenny Jones, using the homophobic argument that for her to have encouraged something as potentially horrific as the public announcement of a gay crush was negligent. And they won! But Schmitz, who tried a version of the gay panic defense at his criminal trial, fortunately got nailed with a 25-to-50 year sentence. He's back in the news because he recently tried to appeal his conviction, and a court didn't buy it. Back behind bars with you, Jon.

Lovers Stay Out

The state with the most inappropriate state motto, ("Virginia is for Lovers"), came close the other day to letting same-sex couples apply for low-interest home loans from the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). Close, as you know, only counts in horseshoe tossing. Oh I forget the expression. It doesn't count in Virginia public housing policy however, as witnessed by the latest vote of the VHDA board. Acting on a study of housing needs, the board stripped an amendment of its reference to same-sex couples, before sending it on for further review. Over coming months, the Associated Press said the board will consider whether to include single parents, elderly applicants and disabled applicants in the loan program. No other state restricts public housing funds in this fashion, the AP said.

Well, that was the item I was dreading. The "Virginia housing loan program" story that I kept glancing at but never had the enthusiasm to actually read, let alone write about. And here's a headline that I thought said: "Jesus backs civil unions for gay couples," but unfortunately reads: "Jepsen backs civil unions for gay couples." Jepsen is the senate majority leader of the state of Connecticut, so it's actually great that he feels this way about civil unions, but Jesus would have been the bigger story, don't you think? I think I would have gone for a punchier headline though. "Son of God backs equal rights for same-sex couples." Subhead: "Conservatives suffer a blow as Divine authority weighs in on side of Vermont statute. Gay advocates hoped for more."

Speaking of civil unions, I was pleased to read that the Massachusetts' Bar Association dinner on Jan. 25 was projected to be an absolute disaster. A few weeks ago, I read that the Association had decided to honor Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee Chair, John Rogers, as "Legislator of the Year" at their annual bash. The gay community, I read at the time, was apoplectic, given the fact that Rogers was a main sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act, a horrible bill that would ban marriage, civil unions, domestic partnerships, and whatever, for gay and lesbian couples. I never heard anything more about it until just a few days ago, when the Boston Herald reported that all the main law firms in the state are boycotting the event, that 300 people are picketing, and the keynote speaker Tipper Gore has dropped off the program. Haven't seen anything since then, but I love it when the gay community comes down like a hammer and gives someone or something a good whap. Take that Bar Association. I miss Tipper, don't you?

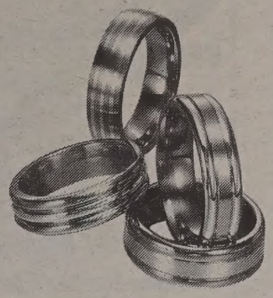
Last But Not Least

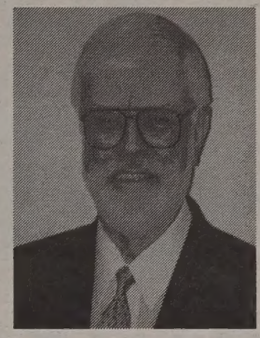
We need a bit more news before we're done, and it's a toss up between the guy who's suing Leona Helmsley for $5 million and the two lesbians from the U.K. who want to try that new technique we've been telling you about that allows them to have their own sperm-less baby.

Let's go with both. According to Gaywired.com, a Coventry couple named Adele and Dawn have volunteered to be the first women to try this procedure that (somehow) lets scientists fertilize an egg using DNA from another woman. But, although I was fine with the idea last issue, I'm now reading that Professor Bill Ledger of Sheffield University, (an expert in all of this), says the technology "has a high risk of creating damaged people." Now that, if true, is a deal breaker. I'm sure you agree.

As for the Queen of Mean, this is not a new story. Oh wait wait wait wait! It is a new story! Helmsley is being sued for the third time by a gay male employee for wrongful (discriminatory) discharge. I thought this was the same guy, but it's not. First, she was sued by Patrick Ward. Then she was sued by Charles Bell. Now, she's being sued (*Newsday* says), by Michael Ward, formerly the catering director of the Park Lane in Manhattan. The first Ward suit was settled. Bell's is still pending, and I guess we'll just wait and see what happens to Patrick. Leona, Leona, Leona. I'm out of space, but I think a limerick is called for in the next issue.

Holy Union Rings





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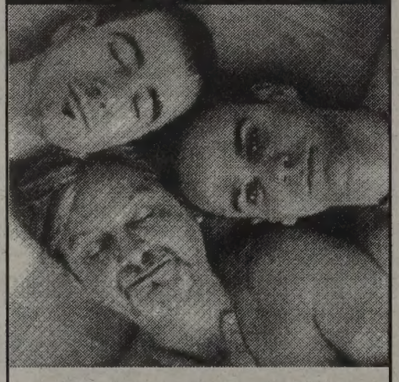
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Community Briefs

aGLIFF Needs Web Experts

AUSTIN — Austin Gay Lesbian International Film Festival (aGLIFF) continues to recruit volunteer programmers to assist in the development of web-based applications for our external web site and intranet.

"Our 2002 team has made a lot of progress but we could use a few more people to help complete our goals," said organizers. "If your experience includes web development using PHP/Perl on an IIS or Apache web server accessing a back-end database we would like to talk to you."

Knowledge of Java Servlets/JSP, ASP/Visual Basic Script or other server-side scripting languages is also helpful.

For more information contact kino@agliff.org.

Legal Hospice Receives Grant from Texas Bar Foundation

DALLAS — The Dallas Legal hospice has received a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation for its 2002 Technology Modernization Project. The Dallas Legal hospice provides free legal counsel and representation on health related matters to persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or terminal illnesses and who cannot afford and attorney. The $12, 750 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation will fund improvements to telecommunication and computer systems, allowing DLH attorneys and staff to better serve clients.

"We are very pleased to learn of this grant," said Roger W. Wedell, DLH Executive Director. "Funds for capital expenditures of this kind are difficult to raise, and we are grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for acknowledging the importance of technology in providing high quality and efficient legal services to our clients."

Funding for Dallas Legal Hospice is provided by federal and state contracts, foundation and corporation gifts, special events and individual donors. DLH was a local beneficiary of the 2001 Dallas Black Tie Dinner and the 2001 AIDS Arms AIDS LifeWalk.

Info: 214-521-6622 or www.dlh.org.

Court Elects New Leaders

HOUSTON — The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. [RSICSS] recently elected Emperor XVIII Sean Carter and Empress XVIII Shelby St. John as the newest monarchs in the state of Texas and the International Court System. The two named various titles for their year including this year's reign theme: "The Reign of Kickass, Camp, Courtesy and Conga Lines."

At the election gala held Jan. 19, the International Court System celebrated the accomplishments of Reign XVII under the leadership of Emperor XVII Wes Stewart and Empress XVII Barbara Walker. Throughout the year, the Court raised tens of thousands of dollars for various charities including Colt 45's, Miss Camp America Foundation, AIDS Foundation Houston and Camp Hope Program, The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, H.A.T.C.H. and many more. In the seventeen year history of the Court, the organization has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the community. The beneficiaries for Coronation weekend were the Montrose Clinic Women's Program and The Assistance Fund.

With over 65 chapters throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico (seven throughout Texas), RSICSS is the only Houston GLBT organization that allows the public at large to elect its co-presidents, Emperor and Empress.

Beneficiaries will be announced at the organization's PR Ball, scheduled for Feb. 23, Carter said. All 501(c)3 organizations are eligible to receive funding from the Court.

Membership in the Court is open to anyone interested. For more information, contact Sean Carter at EmperorXVIII@aol.com or 713-524-3688.

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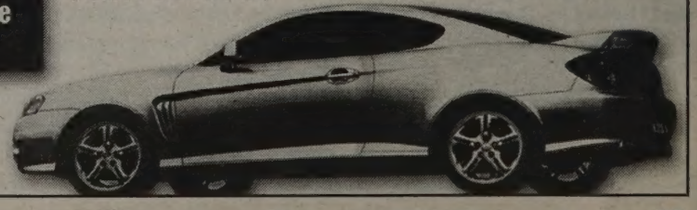
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Letters...

He Said She Said

Are the American people really as stupid as most politicians seems to think? Case in point: Late last week, former Dallas mayoral candidate, Domingo Garcia made the accusation that Laura Miller, one of his former opponents, had offered to pay off his campaign debt in return for his endorsement. Miller denied this claim, but then, appearing before news cameras and reporters, Garcia dramatically and publicly announced that he had corroborating evidence. By the day's end he promised to produce a tape recording that he said would prove that Miller had made the unscrupulous offer.

In what turned out to be the most uneventful climax since *Eyes Wide Shut*, Garcia delivered a taped phone message left for him by one of his own campaign staff. On the tape the staff member claims to have received a phone call from one of Miller's campaign workers, who allegedly made the offer. This is supposed to be proof? - A taped message that not only does not include the voice of Laura Miller nor anyone connected with her, but which could have been recorded at anytime, (perhaps even between the time of his original announcement and the time at which he played the tape).

I'm no lawyer, but even I know hearsay when I hear it. Garcia would never offer up this as evidence in a court of law. The only reason he was willing to do it in the court of public opinion is because he obviously believes that the everyday citizen is stupid enough to buy it. I just pray that we are not.

Tony Daniels
Dallas, Texas

"Tiny?" Size Queen....

Thanks for stating what should be obvious to any reasonable observer, regarding John Walker's dad and gays in general [Dale Carpenter's OutRight, *Texas Triangle*, Vol. X, Issue 14]. The most telling thing in all this is the fact that the networks have the "straight" part of the story only, and your insightful commentary had to run in a "gay" newspaper with a tiny readership.

Until me and my guy can hold hands in public and they don't call the police, it don't mean a thing....

Gary Keener
San Antonio, Texas

Missing James

The Razzle Dazzle Dallas Board of Directors mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Garland James Edwards, a friend and inspiration to us all. James died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2002, in Arlington. An active Board member for the last seven years, James led the Beneficiaries Committee working with North Texas AIDS organizations and most closely with the PLWAs that traveled through the Home for the Holidays and Emergency Travel programs. His selfless actions touched the lives of thousands of people.

James made a difference in our community, personifying the courage to fight AIDS and demonstrating pride in his sexuality, as well as his relationships with his partner Steve and his family. We will miss his honesty, his integrity, and his dedicated hard work. But most of all, his humor.

His faith provides strength to us all.

David Cooper
Dallas, Texas

Kudos to Dems

If any gay or lesbian voters had any doubts about whether they should support Democrat or Republican Party candidates in our important elections this year, a recent action by the Democrats should make that decision almost brainless.

The Democratic National Committee obviously values gays and lesbians and were not afraid to proclaim this loudly by approving a resolution urging that same-sex couples and their families receive the same Social Security benefits available to other Americans and their families. This was the first time a major U.S. political party included same-sex couples in their plans for Social Security benefits.

One can only ask why the Republican Party is so quiet when it comes to even mentioning the word "gay," let alone fight for gays to be treated as equals to heterosexuals? Could it be that they do not think the gay vote is important or do they know they've lost it and simply don't care? Or do they still think being gay is a choice and a "lifestyle" rather than a life? Or are they afraid they will alienate the Christian conservatives who subscribe to (and apparently dictate to some extent) their policies of hate and exclusion?

So at election time, get off your ass and support the political party that supports and values you as a human being... and is not afraid to do so loudly and publicly.

Claude M. Gruener
Austin, Texas

Canadian Financial Aid?

It was recently reported, in *The Texas Triangle*, that the two Canadian tourists that were abused by the Park Rangers are now

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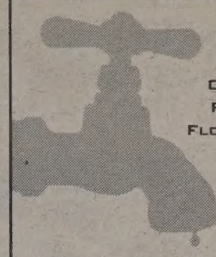
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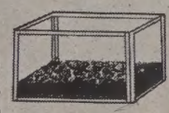
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Dallas Location
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SIZE: Medium
BREED: Shar-pei/Chow Mix
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I have lots of energy, which means that I'd love to have a doggie to play with in addition to people and would make an excellent jogging buddy (sometimes I'm even called "Buddy"). I'm also loving, adorable and love everybody. A transfer from Georgetown, I've been waiting for a new home since November 14. I'm enrolled in the PREP program right now, where I'm learning how to sit, stay, lie down and other neat tricks. I'll be available on January 25.

Working in one Accord
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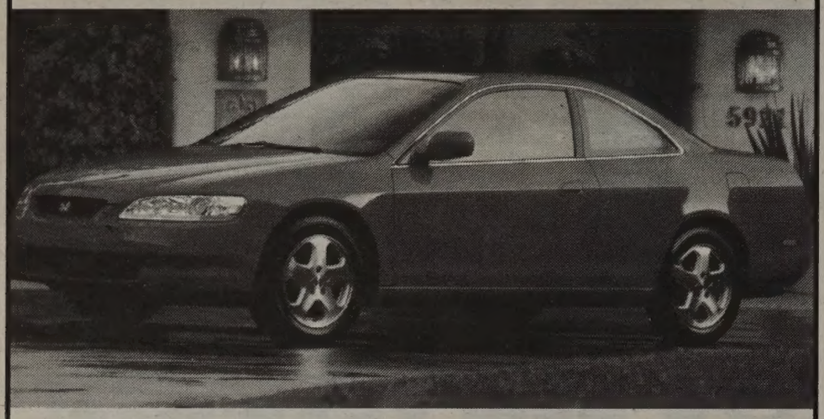

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Best Salesman 2000/2001 Round-Up Awards

Letters...

Continued from pg. 13

suing the City of San Antonio. This is exactly what I suggested that they do in my letter to the editor which appeared in the Nov. 11, 2001 edition of *The Texas Triangle.*

Just a friendly word of advice to Mr. Abbruzzese and Mr. Maleszk:

Please remember and give something back to the individuals and organizations that helped you out in your time of need, those that provided you with an enormous amount of free publicity, those that organized a fund raiser on your behalf to help you defray your legal costs. Please remember that the gay community played a very important part in the favorable outcome of your case.

I hope that Mr. Abbruzzese and Mr. Maleszk are doing much better now than several months ago. With the passing of time, the emotional and physical scars that they both suffered will heal. I am certain that their case will never go to trial. There will be some kind of out-of-court settlement and these types of arrangements are rarely published.

Although it would be impossible for Mr. Abbruzzese and Mr. Maleszk to do to the Park Rangers what the Rangers did to them, now the only way to get back at the legal system is to hurt it monetarily. Although money does not make everything better, nor does getting it make everything that happened seem to be diminished or less important, money is the only thing that keeps the whole legal system fueled and running.

It was outrageous what occurred to both of you at the hands of law enforcement authorities, an agency that one is supposed to be able to trust and hold in high regards.

However, the only reason that the outcome is such as it is, is because in your case, the Park Rangers went just a little too far. If the Rangers had not crossed that line, your case never would have received the media attention that it did and you would both be just another number in the system and the Rangers involved would still be on duty to this day.

But what your case does accomplish is hopefully put other law enforcement agencies on notice that their abuse of power will, and should not be tolerated!

What your case also did was get one Park Ranger fired.

But this former Ranger is not the only officer abusing their police powers. There are still other officers out there operating under the same procedures as they have all along, they just have yet to be caught. And what took place in San Antonio goes on all over the country.

The only reason that most of these cases are not brought to the surface is that many are not as high-profile as your case was and therefore do not receive all the media attention that yours did. Also, many individuals do not have the financial means with which to defend themselves. In my own case, for example, after everything is said and done, it will have cost me approximately $10,000 in attorney's fees, fines and court costs as well as two years of my time under the ever watchful eye of "Big Brother."

Ten-thousand dollars for a crime (police entrapment) in which I am the victim!

Just because a case is not as high-profile as yours was, does not mean that it is not worthy of fighting.

Every case of abuse by the police needs to be actively fought. I would like to suggest that with part of the funds that you will receive from your settlement, that you help establish a local or national fund. This fund would help other individuals that were abused by "The System" and would help them defend themselves against bad cops. And I'm not saying that this fund would pay the total legal fees of someone that needs financial help, that would be impossible. But any amount that someone may receive would be a great benefit. But, again, please remember those that helped you in your time of need - the gay community!

Rick Steinocher
Arlington, Texas

Big Wheels Keep on Turnin'

Given the ongoing community dialogue about the AIDS Rides and Pallotta TeamWorks, I believe the following is of interest to readers of the *Texas Triangle.*

The Los Angeles Superior Court has ruled in favor of AIDS/LifeCycle, the HIV/AIDS fundraising cycling event being co-produced by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. The court rejected the lawsuit brought by Pallotta TeamWorks, producers of the California AIDS Ride, to stop the new cycling event, which is being produced in-house by the beneficiaries. AIDS/LifeCycle is now open for registration and free of legal uncertainty. While this particular legal battle is now in the past, misinformation about what led up to the lawsuit needs some correction.

Our decision to end our relationship with Pallotta TeamWorks and to create AIDS/LifeCycle was not made lightly. It was the result of many months of negotiations with Pallotta TeamWorks in which we attempted to assure that future events could not be a repeat of California AIDS Ride 8. That event was characterized by large unap-

Continued on pg. 20

The Faces May Have Changed, but the Rhetoric Has Not

By Wayne Besen, HRC Associate Director of Communications

The infamous anti-gay kingdom still sits ominously on the far right bank of the river of misinformation. Guarded by its devoted holy warriors, it remains a wealthy and powerful political force. But for the first time in a generation, the throne eerily sits empty, waiting for a new potentate to fill the vacuum created when King Pat Robertson recently "stepped down" from the Christian Coalition.

The royal court is also in shambles. Prince Jerry Falwell was deposed shortly after Sept. 11 by a palace coup led by his mouth. He still acts as though he is a member of the Royal Court, but the rest of the kingdom knows he is simply a court jester.

Additionally, former Family Research Council President, Gary Bauer, the kingdom's lead general in its cultural wars, was toppled after his presidential run came up flat. The kingdom's anti-gay elder, Jesse Helms, has announced he will retire and perhaps just as significant, the lead wise man, Ralph Reed, found new masters to serve.

In the far away GLBT empire, there has been much rejoicing over the apparent demise of the Right's most prominent leaders. Some have even suggested that the right is a paper tiger. Even social conservative leaders like columnist Cal Thomas believe the Religious Right's influence in politics is waning, and they should focus more on prayer than politics.

According to Thomas, "The meltdown marks the second time in a century (the first being Prohibition) when an attempted marriage between church and state failed both institutions...The time is ripe for conservative Christians to spend less time trying to influence Caesar, to consider what it means to render unto God, and to start rendering."

While I wish Thomas and other critics were right, I believe it is premature to write the obituary of the Religious Right. According to election experts, in the last presidential election the GOP got 15 million social conservative votes. While not all of these social conservative voters are anti-gay - many of them are - and they represent a formidable voting bloc that can stand in the way of GLBT people achieving equality.

The main question is who will emerge to claim the throne and lead this huge bloc of voters? In answering this, the axiom "the devil you know may be better than the devil you don't" comes to mind. While Robertson, Helms and company were incredibly mean-spirited and antagonistic, they were still familiar foes. Their diminished roles do not mean that the new crop of right wing leadership will offer better alternatives.

In fact, the attacks from the far right have not abated as the barbaric warlords from smaller organizations compete for Robertson's coveted throne. The American Family Association, for instance, has stepped up their anti-gay attacks across America, recently launching several unsuccessful anti-gay initiatives in Michigan. Included in AFA's repertoire are cartoons marketed to children that promote physical gay bashing.

Focus on the Family and its powerful leader James Dobson are also stepping up its anti-gay agenda, expanding their Love Won Out conferences, which is a nationwide road show that spreads misinformation about gay people. Recently, addressing a bill that would allow California residents to take part in civil unions, Dobson said, "The California Legislature has been captured, almost without opposition, by those who hold a gay and lesbian philosophy.... The result is a tsunami, a tidal wave, of anti-family and immoral legislation that is rapidly forcing the citizens of California to accept and live by an alien system of values..." The Family Research Council's new president, Ken Connor, joined Dobson in denouncing the bill saying it "would create a counterfeit marriage."

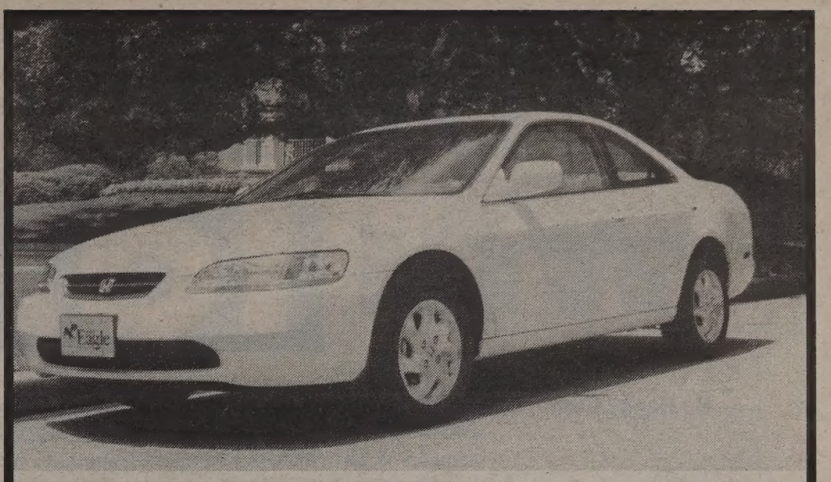
In a gay rights referendum battle brewing in Miami, the anti-gay group Take Back Miami-Dade referred to a local pro-gay group, SAVE Dade, as "corrupt enemies of democracy" who "are not qualified to speak for the great majority of non-exhibitionist, nonviolent homosexual persons living in this community."

Perhaps the most invective spewing organization of all is the Traditional Values Coalition, led by Lou Sheldon. While the group bills itself as "pro-family" it is almost exclusively anti-gay. For instance, four out of the five press releases leading their website are about gay issues.

They also peddle a horrible video, *It's Not Gay*, that repeatedly refers to homosexuality as a "destructive lifestyle" and ends as an "ex-gay" walks past a graveyard while morbid music plays in the background.

The familiar faces of the Religious Right may have changed, but their hateful rhetoric has not. If anything, it may have become more acerbic as sundry anti-gay leaders compete for media attention. While the throne may be empty, it is clear that there is no shortage of wannabe kings who will use the backs of GLBT people to try to climb their way to the top.

While the GLBT community has made significant gains, opposition from the far right will only intensify before full equality is achieved. We must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security by focusing too much on the empty throne, while ignoring the anti-gay barbarians storming the gates for control of the kingdom.



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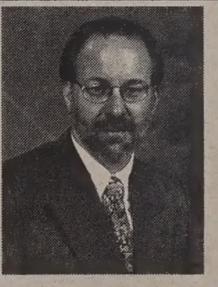

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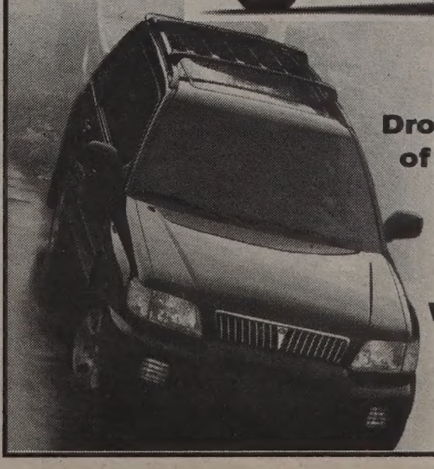

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People will talk

By Nancy Ford

"Not only did [Salt Lake Olympic Committee] appoint two representatives to the Volunteer committee, they asked GLBT community members to participate in a Minority/Cultural Committee. SLOC contacted the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Utah asking for help in developing community housing, especially for 'gay' athletes and attendees. They used GLCCU as a distribution site for information about the Olympics including opportunities to volunteer or apply for paying jobs. From our perspective, SLOC ensured the inclusion of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community in the 2002 games."

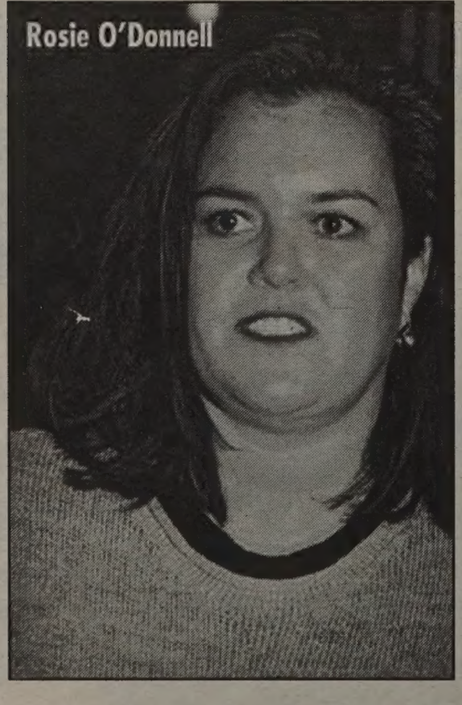
— Paula Wolfe, executive director, the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Utah at a press conference praising the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee for including the gay and lesbian community in organizing the international event

"*Kantaras v. Kantaras* is providing an opportunity for *Court TV*'s audience to better understand transgender lives and issues. With the exception of *Trial Heat* host Nancy Grace's occasional sensationalistic questions and commentary, *Court TV*'s commentators are presenting smart, unprecedented information and insights into transgender issues."

— GLAAD News Media Director Cathy Renna. In a television first, Court TV is airing gavel-to-gavel coverage of a child custody case involving female-to-male transsexual father Michael Kantaras and his soon-to-be-ex-wife, Linda Kantaras. Linda Kantaras has challenged her husband's right to custody on the grounds that, due to his birth sex, their 11-year marriage and Michael's adoption of their two children are invalid in the state of Florida. In addition to deciding parental fitness, the court must determine Michael's legal sex.

"She talks about her relationships with women and having a girl break her heart in college - and other relationships with women.

"She comes out, but she's very matter-of-fact about it. She may be thinking that if she doesn't make a big deal out of it, she minimizes the backlash from gay activists who might say, 'Where the hell have you been?'"



— commentary from readers in New York Daily News's Rush & Molloy Report, following news that soft butch talk show host Rosie O'Donnell will come out in her forthcoming memoir, Find Me, due April 23.

"Chuck loved everything about San Francisco. He was one of the first donors to the center, and I know that he would have been so impressed with what it has become," "Naming this new civic institution after our good friend will ensure his permanent place in the city he loved so much."

— Terry Bean, executor of the Charles Holmes estate, to Gay.com/PlanetOut.com. The estate of philanthropist and adult film entrepreneur Holmes donated $1 million to the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center. The center said it is the largest gift from an individual to a GLBT organization in San Francisco's history.

"In July 2000, we received reports that six men were executed in Saudi Arabia on charges of deviant sexual behavior.... But the United States is silent about the Saudis.

"Why? In a word, oil. Lots of it. In fact, Saudi Arabia has the largest reserves of petroleum in the world – 26 percent – making it a formidable power. But the United States should not choke on this oil.

"The next time President Bush or Secretary of State Colin Powell talk about global democracy and freedom, we need to remind them that these lofty promises should apply to our global partners, not just our enemies."

— Sydney Levy, communications director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

"I have no doubt because of the way we exercise and cooperate with the Canadians on a daily basis that there won't be any problems integrating that force into our own force. This will simply not be an issue. They'll meld in very nicely."

— Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the Jan. 8 Toronto Star. In Afghanistan, U.S. troops are currently serving alongside openly gay British and Canadian troops. Both countries have lifted their bans against openly gay service members.

"Unless the United States is ready to say that we will no longer take part in joint operations with any of our allies who allow openly gay service members, the government and the Pentagon must recognize that the current U.S. policy of 'don't ask, don't tell' has no merit."

— Toronto free lance writer Heather M. Ross in the Tallahassee Democrat

"Noam Gonick's *Hey, Happy!*, a camp comedy featuring much strong language, drug use, gay sex, full frontal nudity and generalized ridicule of religious beliefs, received support from no fewer than seven government agencies, from the Canada Council for the Arts to Manitoba's Film and Video Production Tax Credit program. In the United States, *Hey, Happy!* would be lucky to receive the publicity benefits of a ringing denunciation on the floor of the Senate."

— Dave Kehr in the New York Times

"Our strategy on this bill is that there will be no amendments, period.... Any effort to amend the language would effectively kill the bill."

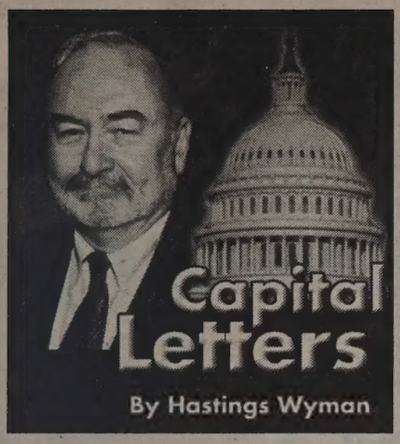
— New York's Empire Pride Agenda executive director Joe Grabarz, to the Schenectady Daily Gazette, regarding the request of some activists to include the term 'gender identity' in an upcoming anti-discrimination bill.

"This technology has a high risk of creating damaged people, and therefore I don't think it should be allowed to go ahead."

— Sheffield University Professor/human embryonic stem cells expert Bill Ledger, on haploidisation, to BBC News-night. The process produces "artificial sperm" from any cell in a woman's body which can be used to fertilize another woman's egg.

"It would mean everything to us if we could have our own baby; we wouldn't have to use a man, basically."

— "Adele and Dawn", a British lesbian couple who are willing to try the new technique, to BBC News-night.



Anti-Gay Referenda in the Works

The most publicized anti-gay initiative this year will be in Miami-Dade, where Christian homophobes are putting a measure on the ballot to repeal civil rights protections for gay people. But that's just the tip of the anti-gay iceberg. Here's the latest on initiatives and efforts to defeat them.

Santa Barbara, California. In March, residents will vote on repeal of a city council resolution that criticized the Boy Scouts' discrimination against gays. The repeal measure also applauds the Scouts for their anti-gay policies.

Maine. Last year the Pine Tree State implemented a domestic partnership policy for state employees. The Christian Civic League is seeking to have the policy put to a vote. Maine's pro-gay side lost the last referenda by 51 percent to 49 percent in 2000.

Massachusetts. Social conservatives in the Bay State are pushing "Super DOMA," a defense of marriage act that would ban any state recognition of same-sex relationships, including civil unions and domestic partner benefits. The same firm was collecting signatures for the anti-gay initiative and for "Save Our Horses" (about slaughterhouses), and there have been accusations that some signers were deceived about which petition they were signing.

Oregon. The same old crowd of troglodytes - anti-gay activist Lon Mabon and the Christian Coalition - are collecting signatures to enact a law to bar discussion of homosexuality in public schools, kindergarten through community college. In 2000, a similar amendment was defeated by 53 percent to 47 percent. Oregonians have a history of defeating such amendments - but never decisively enough to discourage the religious righters from bringing up another one.

Nevada. It takes two elections to amend the state's constitution, so in November Nevadans will vote again on whether to confirm their 70 percent to 30 percent vote in 2000 to adopt an anti-gay marriage amendment.

Michigan. The pro-gay side won three battles in Michigan cities last fall, but the anti-gay side won two earlier referenda, so the American Family Association (AFA) is gearing up again. In Ypsilanti, the AFA gathered enough signatures to try to repeal the city's ban on anti-gay discrimination. In a similar Ypsilanti vote in 1998, our side won 56 percent to 44 percent. And in Flint, the AFA is collecting signatures to force a similar anti-gay initiative.

The gay movement isn't sitting still. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), for example, has worked with local groups in Massachusetts to train volunteers to stop "Super DOMA." NGLTF will also be training grassroots activists who are fighting other anti-gay measures. Dave Fleischer, NGLTF's director of training, notes that NGLTF's workshops will begin in Miami Feb. 21-24, move to Oregon April 19-21 (in conjunction with Basic Rights Oregon and Equal Rights Nevada), and wind up in Michigan May 16-19. NGLTF is also giving grants to local groups to fight the initiatives.

Gay Democrats Gather

At the mid-winter meeting of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in Washington, D.C., the gay and lesbian presence was much in evidence:

- The DNC passed a resolution in favor of making Social Security benefits equally available to gays and lesbians and their families, a proposal recently advanced by the Human Rights Campaign.

- Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who in the face of considerable opposition firmly supported same-sex civil unions, stopped by the DNC's Gay and Lesbian Caucus to promote his unannounced candidacy for president in 2004. Dean cited the positive effect on his state's legislature when an openly gay lawmaker - state Rep. Bill Lippert - answered the anti-gay rhetoric on the House floor in the civil unions debate.

- DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe spoke to the caucus and was prepared to take questions on the failure of newly inaugurated Gov. Mark Warner (D-VA) to include sexual orientation in his ban on discrimination. However, no one asked a question about Warner, whom Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club has criticized for his stance. Warner did catch some flak, however, when Congressman Barney Frank addressed the caucus. "I hope everyone who lives in Virginia will yell like hell about Mark Warner," said Frank, who noted that the governor's omission "was politically stupid."

Now and Then in Minnesota

In January, openly gay Al Oertwig was elected chairman of the St. Paul, Minn. school board. Oertwig's election by his fellow board members follows similar gains in co-joined Minneapolis, where openly gay Robert Lilligren was recently elected vice president of the city council and openly gay David Fey was appointed deputy mayor.

These events are a far cry from the "good old days." A recently published book, *The Evening Crowd at Kirmser's*, the memoirs of a gay man's life in the late 1940s in St. Paul, tells the story of one homosexual who was fired because his boss got an anonymous phone call that "a cocksucker" was working for him. Another was fired because his boss said he was a bad influence on other employees. At the city's only gay bar at the time, Kirmser's, two toughs barged in and beat up one of the patrons so badly that he limped for days. The only person to come to the victim's aid was criticized by other gay men in the bar - who were psychologically as well as physically cowed - for taking such a risk. Le plus ca change, le plus ca change.

Hastings Wyman publishes Southern Political Report, a nonpartisan biweekly political newsletter. He can be reached care of this publication or at HWymanSPR@aol.com.

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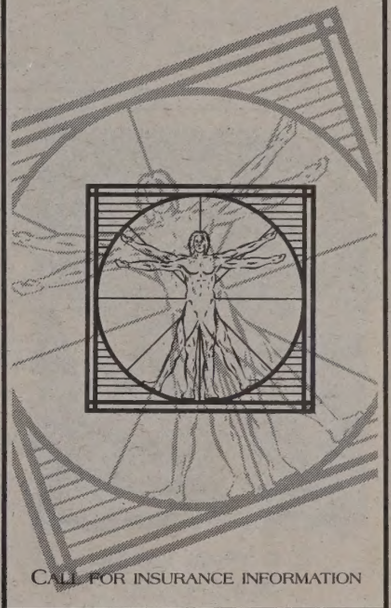

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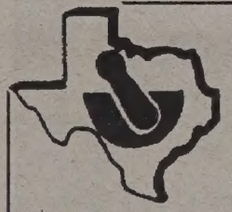

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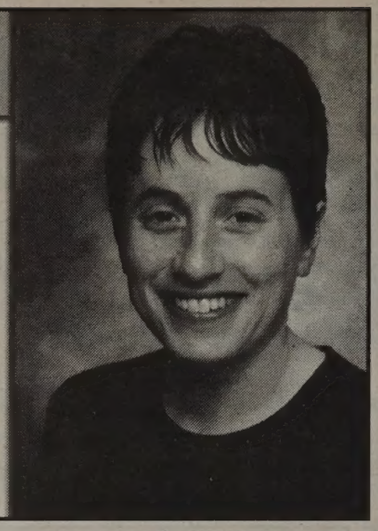

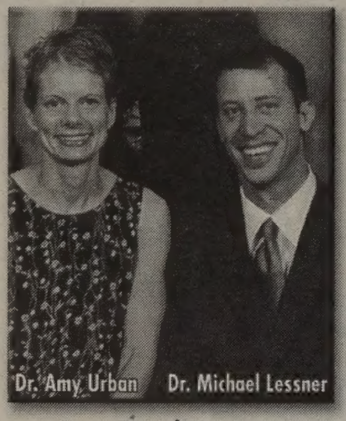

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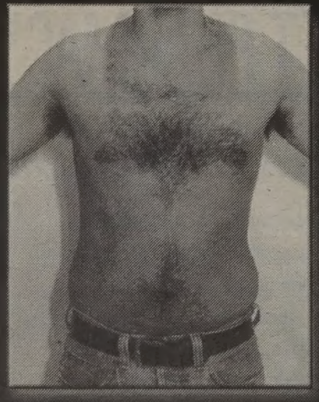

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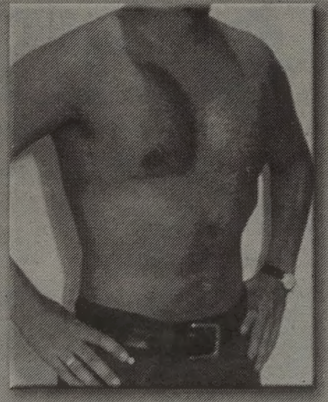

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health beat

Safety: The Main Evolution of Liposuction

By Dr. Ersek, M.D.

In 1983, Gerardo Lews described his method of using a blunt-tipped tube with a blunt hole to gently remove fat from between the skin and underlying muscle layers. It has revolutionized body-sculpting by plastic surgeons worldwide, and has become the most often requested procedure in plastic surgery. Liposuction can be done under local anesthesia as an outpatient with minimal down time, and it can be performed virtually from head to toe.

Usually patients are first evaluated for what fat might best be removed in general. Liposuction is not a treatment for obesity, although plenty of obese people have been treated and have lost a great deal of weight. It is recommended for figure faults. Someone who has a thin waist may have monstrous hips, (Figure 1), or someone may have thin hips and a tremendous, barrel-shaped waist. There's a wide variation and there's no such thing as normal.

Liposuction enables practitioners to safely and simply smooth out these irregularities and make tremendous strides in creating body harmony.

More recently, in addition to making areas smaller, it has become possible to sculpt those areas and to accentuate abdominal muscles, for instance, eliminate love handles, or even sculpt heels and ankles so that overweight people who can not wear normal shoes, only slippers, can now wear shoes because they have the correct anatomical shape to their heels and ankles. Of course calves, thighs, and arms can also be treated safely and simply.

One of the significant advances has been the development of tumescent liposuction, where large quantities of fluid are infiltrated into the fat. They contain adrenaline, which shrinks down the capillaries and blood vessels, and novacaine, which renders the whole area numb. It is possible to just give someone a sedative so that they don't feel anything for a few minutes, pump large quantities of fluid into the subcutaneous tissue, (as much as 5 or 6 litres) and then, even though the patient is not completely asleep, they will remain unaware of the events, and have no memory of it. The whole area will be numb so that vast quantities of fat can easily be removed and areas can be precisely sculpted. The mechanical effect of this large amount of fluid in the subcutaneous tissue squishes out the blood from the capillaries so that the fat that is extracted is pure yellow fat. It looks like butter, and larger amounts can be removed safely without any transfusions being required.

A long tube, or canulous, has been developed, which enables doctors to make a small incision in a hair-bearing area such as the armpit or near the pubis, or in the region of the tailbone. And from these areas, with long canulous, the surgeons can reach all the way from the shoulder to the knee without making any other marks on the body, and after the few marks heal, in a week or two, these small freckles cannot be found even with a flashlight and a roadmap.

The problems that occurred early in liposuction were usually due to poorly trained, peripheral practitioners (rarely real plastic surgeons) whose extractions exceeded the reasonable physiologic amounts of fat to be removed at one time, and who used unsafe techniques. But since the development of the tumescent system and smaller diameter blunt canulous, there have been very few problems with liposuction, and those that do occur are usually related to a slight asymmetry, where one side doesn't quite match the other, or some surface irregularities, most of which can be easily "ironed out" with a small touch-up procedure.

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Call Dr. Ersek with Personique at 512-459-6800 for a consultation or try seeking him out on the web at www.plasticsurgeryexperts.com.

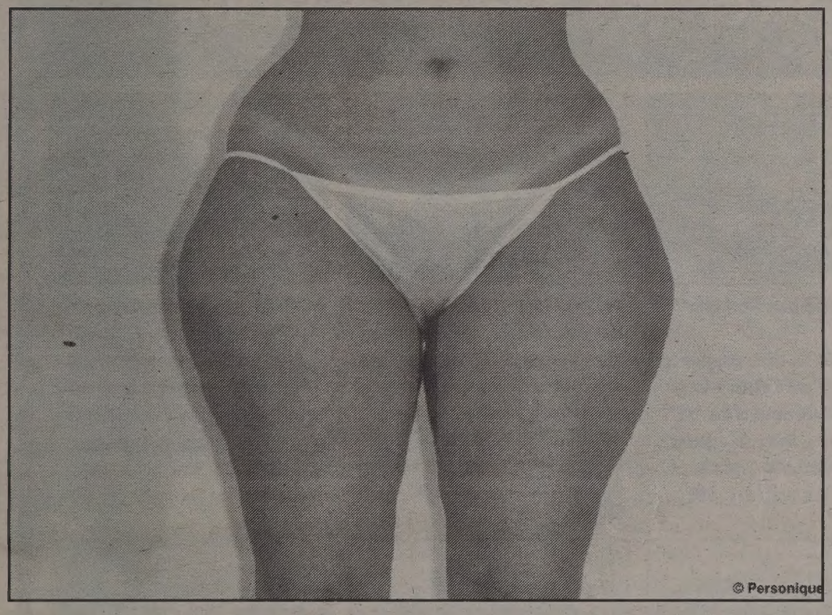
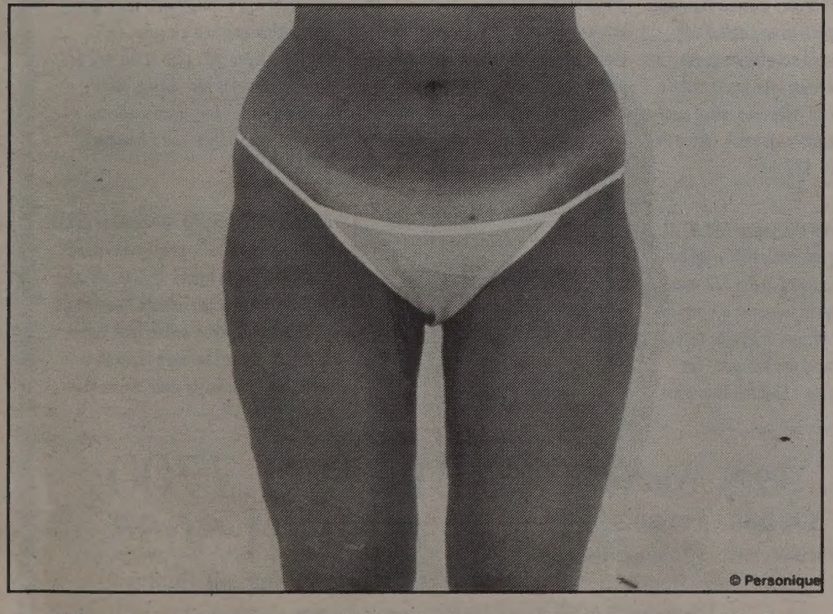


Figure 1. Sandra: *(Above)* Thin waist and legs, and tremendous thighs. *(Below)* We were able to remove 10 L (25 lbs.) over a 2-year period by taking a little at a time. These results were achieved on an outpatient basis with no transfusion. For the first time in her life, she can wear jeans off the rack.



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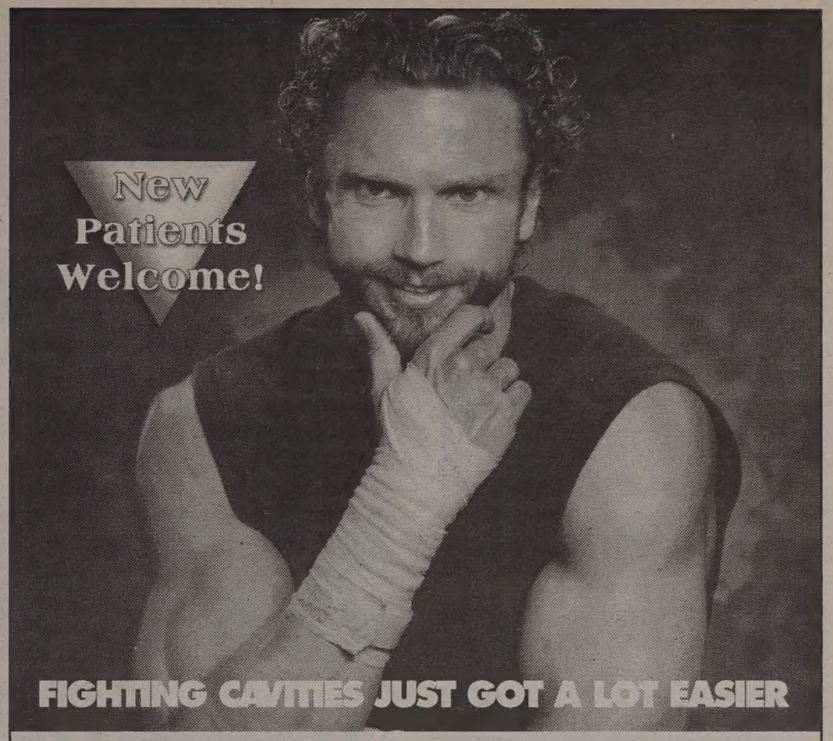

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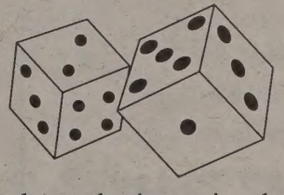

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Letters...

Continued from pg. 16

proved cost-overruns by Pallotta TeamWorks, intense marketing of Pallotta TeamWorks and a general shift of focus which put our primary concern - HIV and AIDS - on the back burner. The cost of fundraising on the California AIDS Ride increased over two years from below 35 cents on each dollar raised to nearly 50 cents of every dollar raised. In the past year alone, this cost increase represented a loss of nearly $1 million that should have gone to HIV and AIDS services.

We negotiated in good faith with Pallotta TeamWorks over many months to correct these problems. However Pallotta TeamWorks was unwilling to accept reasonable cost control provisions that we believed were necessary to assure a successful event in 2002. Unable to reach agreement, we chose not to renew our contract for 2002 and instead launched AIDS/LifeCycle. In response Pallotta TeamWorks filed its lawsuit to stop our event, a legal maneuver

that has failed. Additional information on this history is available on our websites at www.sfaf.org and www.laglc.org.

We now turn our attention to the future. AIDS/LifeCycle, which will inspire and challenge every participant both physically and emotionally, will be a fully supported event with hot showers, healthy meals, tents, and, yes, participation in an inspiring community of caring people cycling together for a week down the beautiful state of California - all on behalf of the same cause - an end to AIDS.

To learn more about this inaugural event, visit our website at www.AIDSLifeCycle.org or call 1-800-BIKE-4-AIDS. We invite you to join the excitement and look forward to riding with you May 13-19.

Sincerely,
Gustavo Suárez, Communications Director
Redge W. Norton, Media Relations Associate
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Francisco, California

America's Strength Starts at Home

9409382 5804 Bryan Pkwy (36.X)
Great investment opportunity in Alta Vista, this duplex has already had one side remodeled, including stack washer/dryer--and the other, larger side is in the process of new paint--and it's includes a nice office/den. Call today! $135,900

9412029 3353 Mapleleaf Lane (63.B)
It only looks like the house you grew up in! Lots of trees and a big patio for parties only add to the charm of this 3/2/2 with formal living/dining and a generous den! Convenient location--and all it needs is you! Call today! $115,000

9418882 1202 Melborne Av. (54.P)
In the heart of Elmwood, this charming 2/1 is waiting for you! Hardwood floors, open living and dining area, oversized corner lot--and a heated and cooled workshop! With it's recent paint inside and out, check this one out for payments that may be less than your rent! $80,000

9419680 613 Imperial, Cedar Hill (81B.B)
Mint condition 3/2/2 garden home with oversize living room open to dining and kitchen! You'll enjoy the sprinkler system in the low maintenance yard, and the wood blinds inside, along with a quiet neighborhood and real value! $96,900

9421374 329 S. Edgefield (54.F)
What a grand prairie home! This 2/1.5 in the historic district boasts beautiful hardwood/pine flooring, a porch off master bedroom, a fire place in the living AND huge master, and zoned climate control for energy efficiency! $159,900

9422560 3611 Pomeroy Drive (63.B)
Roomy 2/2/2 features an open floor plan with 2 living areas, as well as 2 dining areas! And should out of town guests arrive, the 2nd living area would make a great guest room! Nice area, great location--set an appointment today, 'cause this one will go fast! $97,000

9425575 813 Longleaf Drive, Desoto (84.F)
Low maintenance 3/2/2 garden home shows superb care from it's original owner--and a home office space is a definate luxury! And all that time you save doing yard work can go into planning your next party in the roomy kitchen! $99,900

9425825 420 Allison (Mapsco 44.Y)
This great east Kessler 1 1/2 story has been maintained to it's original design integrity! Open floor plan in this 4/2.5/1 flows between the den, dining, garden room and deck. And, there's a bonus 4/th bedroom/office--and a basement! $279,500

9413414 459 Glencairn (64.Y)
A corner lot in this established neighborhood provides privacy to this 3/2 home--with a bonus guest suite with it's own living, kitchen, bedroom and bath. Carpet and vinyl replaced this last year. For flexibility, you can't beat this floor plan! $85,000

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What A World, What A World...

Revisiting Kindred

Kindred Spirits was the first gay women's bar I ever set foot in. Never heard of it? No? *Really*? Well then, I'm flattered that you - a very, very young person - should choose to read this column.

Serendipitously I was visiting Houston, escaping Ohio for 48 hours, on the that fateful 1980 February weekend of Kindred Spirits' Grand Opening. Never before had this naive neophyte to the gay community seen so many lesbians herded in the same place. Hundreds of them! Amazing! Wonderful! I'm home!

After that first visit, I returned briefly to Ohio, but I never really looked back; moments later I had packed my buckeye bags and moved to Texas. Hey, that's where all the women were - I saw them with my own eyes!

One Sunday afternoon I found myself entering a talent competition at Kindred Spirits, or KS as we called it before those letters started meaning something far less entertaining. As it happened, it was a rainy Sunday afternoon - not exactly prime time - and I won the contest, the grand prize being a paid gig entertaining KS's Friday happy hour crowd.

That was my first professional gig in a gay club. Since I can't recall exactly how the judging was set up (there was little audience to gage a response) I assume the decision must have fallen to the Boss Lady. Therefore, I bless/blame Marion Coleman for launching my gay showbiz career.

There was another thing I got out of Kindred Spirits: A girlfriend. A really good one, too - not the kind you wish you'd never met after your credit card invoices and clinic tests results come back. It was one of those magical nights at Kindred Spirits II (the Galleria redux of the too-small KSI on Buffalo Speedway) when anything could happen. And it often did.

D and I locked eyes over the video trivia machine, went home together that very same night (yep, girls do that sometimes too, guys!) and that was it for nearly five years. Nonono, we're not together now, silly. But she and I are still the best of friends, as I am with her current partner of now nearly twelve years. It's a rare thing when you can walk into any establishment looking for a friend and walk out with family.

It's been more than twenty years since Kindred Spirits first opened its doors, more than ten since those doors closed. It was special in that it was the first club for gay women in Houston - make that, in Southwestern U.S. - that looked more like a Bennigan's than a garage. Live plants adorned the walls instead of crud. We sat shoulder to shoulder in the clean, green director's chairs in the sunken lounge area, subtly lit by the neon cactus. We draped over the upper railing, gazing down into the chick sea that undulated in waves beneath us. We stayed out of the fire lane, by god.

But KS was more than cold beer and cheap thrills. Way more. In the '80s, there were no gay community centers, no gay coffee shops. There was one - one! - little gay bookstore that wasn't a porn shop. The very few gay organizations that existed had even fewer places to meet. So on any given night, a thirsty customer might walk into KS to find a politically-motivated meeting going on in one corner, a softball team setting batting lineup in another corner, auditions for an upstart gay theatre company in yet another. Without question, KS was a precursor to, if not the birthplace of, many current community organizations that thrive today.

After Kindred Spirits II closed, the gargantuan, multi-barred Ranch became the hub for southwest Texas lesbians, further expanding the idea that a women's bar doesn't have to look like a dive. Now it's the Chances/G Spot/New Barn triplex in the heart of Montrose that carries the torch that Marion Coleman lit.

Feeling nostalgic? Not a problem. KS's most enduring legend, Miss Vicki, can now be found at G Spot - arguably, Houston's most popular lesbian nightclub - still serving drinks without attitude. Drop in sometime and ask her to share a war story or two with you.

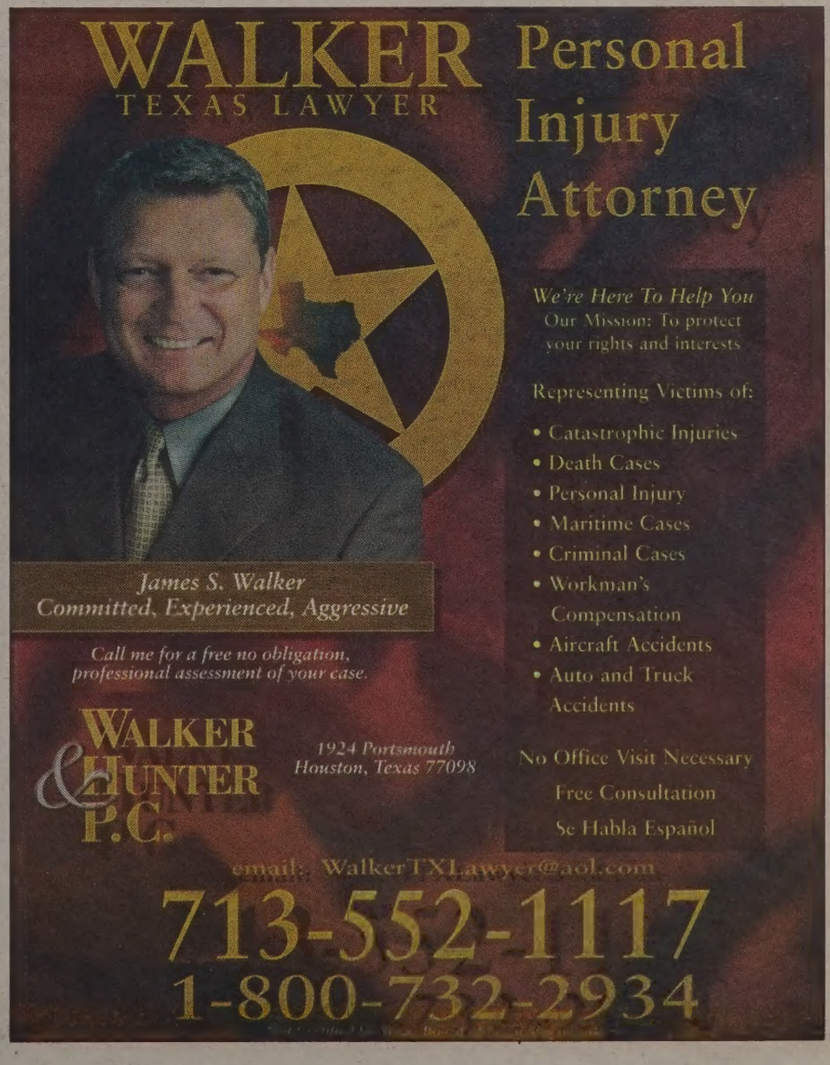
My friend Marion Coleman, still a mainstay of Houston's gay community, tells me so many women ask her when she's going to open another Kindred Spirits that she's decided to put together a reunion of sorts. Details are still being worked out, but so far we know that it's going to be held March 30 at Edwin Hornberger Center. Still advocating for her many friends/employees/customers who have been lost to HIV/AIDS, Marion says the $25 ticket will benefit Bering Care Center.

Who knows - if that evening is successful enough, maybe Marion can be persuaded to open yet another Kindred Spirits. Or maybe she should open two Kindred Spirits: Kindred Spirits III for her new customers (the naive neophytes who are visiting from Ohio and setting foot in a gay bar for the first time in their lives), and Kindred Spirits Rehab/Retirement/RV Park for her former ones.

I'd happily do the Friday happy hour gig at either.

Final Saturday show! Texas Triangle and Unhinged Productions present The Dyke Show with Nancy Ford - a one-woman, 20-year improvisational history told in story, song, and 100% cotton. Saturday, Feb. 2; doors open at 10:30 p.m. Unhinged Productions, 3304 LaBranch at Elgin. Tickets: $10. Reservations: 713-524-8707.

Nancy Ford's Open Mic for musicians, poets, and comics continues Thursdays, 8-11 p.m. at The G Spot (between Chances and The New Barn), 1100 Westheimer. No cover.



Born in the U.S.A.

Barbara Jordan

Remembering the voice of an "Un-hyphenated American"

By Ann Rostow

Barbara Jordan would probably not appreciate being the cover girl for the kick off of Black History Month in a gay newspaper. She never identified as a minority of any sort. As she described herself two months before her death: "I am an un-hyphenated American," and from her, those were not empty words. In her famous keynote address to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, Jordan told the enraptured crowd:

"The greatest danger America faces is that we will cease to be one nation and become a collection of interest groups - city against suburb, region against region, individual against individual, each seeking to satisfy private wants. If this happens, who then will speak for America? Who then will speak for the common good?"

Standing there on the podium in Madison Square Garden that summer evening, the 40-year-old Congresswoman was arguably at the height of her political career. In the first serious biography to describe her life, Mary Beth Rogers quotes the reaction of the quintessential New York columnist Jimmy Breslin. Jordan, he wrote, "was the boss of the high density livers…the ones who are out on the street hurling language into the night air. Here she came, and she knew exactly how to bring this big motley hall into order and send a chill through the nation." If you're over thirty-five, you probably felt that chill.

This article kicks off Black History Month in a gay newspaper at a time when "identity politics" is on the debate table. And whether she would have appreciated it or not, there is no one better than Barbara Jordan to frame that debate. Her reputation as an American who transcended labels is common knowledge to anyone who knew her or has studied her life. Yet she was more complicated than that reputation suggests. There were several labels she took on willingly. She was a Texan. She was proud of her Houston Fifth Ward roots. She was religious, although expansive in her faith. She was a Democrat, a Johnson loyalist, a politician, a pragmatist.

Those were labels she liked. The ones that added something extra to a person rather than subtracted everything that didn't fit the label's stereotype. Although she championed equality, she would not have called herself a "civil rights leader" or a "feminist." But certainly, she was both and more. She just incorporated these roles into a larger cause, and disliked being diminished into something smaller. That was why she kept her personal life private, in life and in death. That was why she hid the debilitating illness that cut short her public career. And that is why she remains an icon, who still defies our attempts to categorize and define who she was. But Breslin had her down. She lived a large part of her relatively-short life literally and figuratively "hurling language into the night air." Had she been a poet or a musician, we'd simply admire her talent. But because she was a deft politician, and because the language she hurled our way articulated the complex fundamental principles by which we live as Americans, we somehow owe her more.

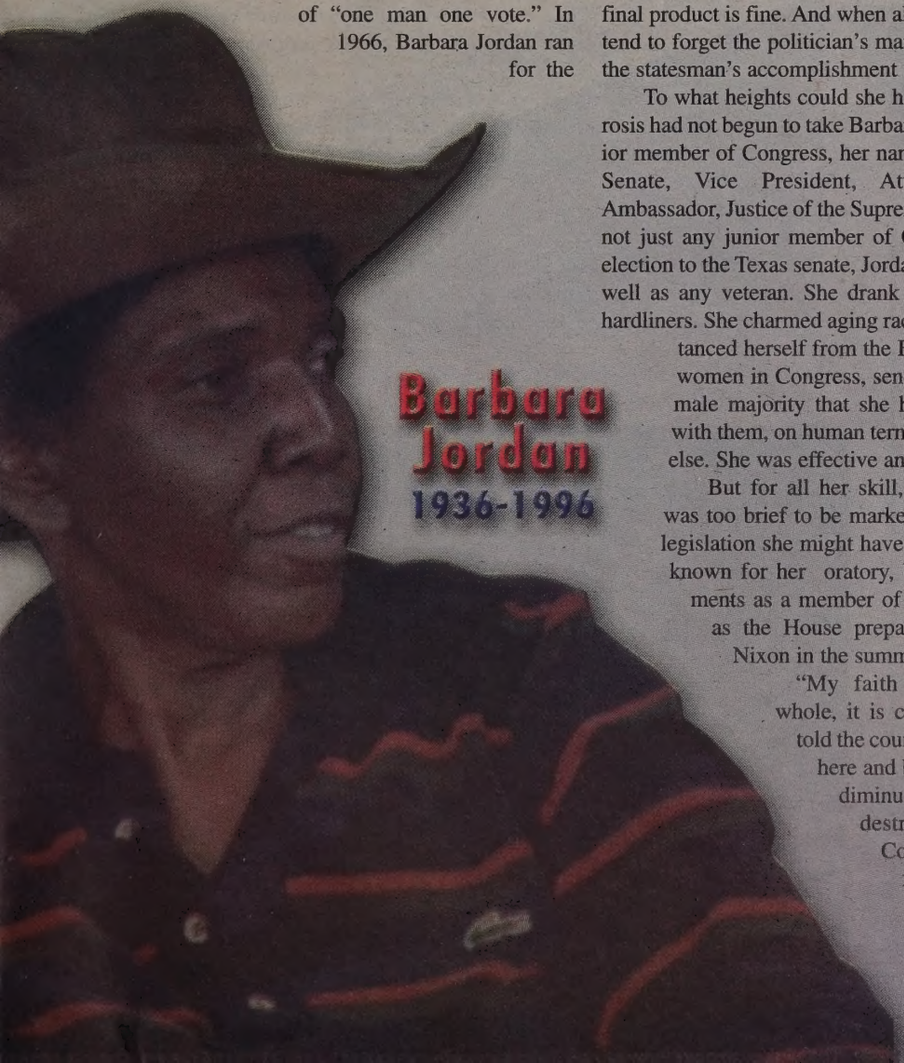
In her biography, *Barbara Jordan, American Hero*, Mary Beth Rogers describes a woman of great determination, who sacrificed health, leisure time and all the other things one would expect to sacrifice, for personal excellence. High school contests, law school studies, political campaigns, lawmaking, teaching. Whatever Jordan was up to, she was damn well going to be the best, or do her best, which was generally the same thing. But between the lines drifts an image of the personal Jordan that Rogers declines to delineate. Icon perhaps. But the personal side of Barbara Jordan shared the original energies that kept the public side on fire. Driven by what might be described as a lust for the deep exhilaration of a really good life, Barbara Jordan was one of those people who tapped everything she had. She worked hard. But she played hard, in the good sense of that expression. She sang, she drank, she smoked, she partied, she lived fully. She had an extraordinary sense of humor. The same booming voice that took the nation's breath away on that July night in 1976, tossed anecdotes into dinner parties, impersonated colleagues, and belted out the St. James Infirmary Blues. The forces that drove her to succeed professionally, also drove her to revel in her personal life, to draw around herself the concentric circles of the people she loved and liked, but to keep those circles closed.

Jordan's life story began between the two World Wars, in an all-Black culture two decades before the seminal Supreme Court case that dismantled the formal infrastructure of American racism. To summarize her youth, she was just great. Top of the class. Star of the debate team. "Girl of the Year" at Phyllis Wheatley High School. In 1952, Jordan started her freshman studies at Texas Southern University, which had only just changed its name from "Texas State University for Negroes" the year before. When Jordan entered college, Brown vs. Board of Education was still

two years away, and she was one of the rare Black women in the country to attend university. But she was going further than that. At some point in high school, Jordan writes in her 1979 autobiography, she decided she was going to be a lawyer, "or rather something called a lawyer. I had no fixed notion of what that was." The goal may have been vague. But it evolved, she wrote, "at the time when I decided I was not going to be like all the rest."

Although Jordan was an impressive child and young adult, the character that set her apart from other bright kids passed a crucible in her first year of law school. There at Boston University, (one of the few law schools that accepted Black women at the time), Jordan recognized that her education, by virtue of her race, had been second rate. No matter that she had been a first rate student, even the most mediocre of the white brains in her entering law school class were far better prepared. In her first two years at BU, a woman who was certainly the intellectual superior of most or all of her peers, had to study nonstop - really night and day - in order to make passing grades. Not because of her ability. But because she had been raised and schooled in the Black America of the 1940s and '50s. It was the first time that racism hit home to Barbara Jordan, and for the first time, but not the last time, she just dealt with it.

When Jordan passed the Texas bar, her biographer reports, she was one of three female Black lawyers in the entire state. Quickly bored with the mundane tasks of private practice, she volunteered for the Kennedy campaign and began to make political contacts. Her talent, ambition, debate training, and her stentorian voice, drew notice, and with the encouragement of certain local power brokers, Jordan ran unsuccessfully for the Texas House in 1962 and 1964. In both races, the Black votes of the Fifth Ward and elsewhere were overwhelmed by the white votes of Harris County. But in 1965, following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court put the kibosh on a range of unfair districting plans that compromised the basic tenet of "one man one vote." In 1966, Barbara Jordan ran for the state senate under new rules and won handily, becoming the first Black woman to serve in the state legislature, and one of the first two Black lawmakers elected in over 70 years. That's how long racist poll taxes and districting practices had been in place in Texas.



Jordan was 30 years old when she took her place among the white men in the 1966 Texas senate. She was young. She was Black. She was female. It was 1966. Talk about your Frank Capra movie. And she lived the screenplay that he would have written. Six years later, after the 1970 census led to a new U.S. Congressional district in Houston, (and Jordan helped draw its boundaries), she would live the second half of the movie, succeeding in a white man's world by virtue of her differences, her skill, her hard work, and above all, by her unusual political instincts.

The Black community claims Barbara Jordan. The women's community claims her. Houston claims her. Texas claims her. The gay community would like to claim her. But one community that also has a major claim to Jordan is the much-maligned community of professional politicians.

Instinctively, and by nature, Barbara Jordan understood that politics is human. It is detailed. It is messy. It requires effort. "A statesman," said Harry Truman, "is a politician who's been dead 10 or 15 years." By Truman's timetable, Jordan qualified a few years early. But the quip reflects the tension between the dirty job of politics - hammering out deals, trading favors, engineering subtle shifts in a herd mentality, making a bad vote for a larger good, all of that - and the end result of leading the representatives of a diverse people to a consensus that makes life better. Under American democracy, it takes - not just ideals - but political acumen to accomplish that difficult task. As someone said, making law is like making sausage. You don't want to see the ingredients or watch the process, but the final product is fine. And when all is said and done, people tend to forget the politician's maneuvering, and remember the statesman's accomplishment a decade later.

To what heights could she have risen if multiple sclerosis had not begun to take Barbara Jordan down? As a junior member of Congress, her name was bandied about for Senate, Vice President, Attorney General, U.N. Ambassador, Justice of the Supreme Court. But Jordan was not just any junior member of Congress. Ever since her election to the Texas senate, Jordan had played the game as well as any veteran. She drank whisky with Republican hardliners. She charmed aging racists. She deliberately distanced herself from the Black Caucus and the few women in Congress, sending a signal to the white male majority that she had as much in common with them, on human terms, as she did with anyone else. She was effective and liked as a result.

But for all her skill, Jordan's political career was too brief to be marked by the lengthy lists of legislation she might have compiled. Instead, she is known for her oratory, beginning with her comments as a member of the Judiciary Committee as the House prepared to impeach Richard Nixon in the summer of 1974.

"My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total," she told the country. "I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution." Those lines, from remarks that she had prepared just an hour or so before the committee convened, are some of her most famous. Yet the statement as a whole was not simply inspiring. It was the first decent explanation of just what the hell was going on, and it allowed America to understand the context of Watergate after months of confusion. After the impeachment crisis, Jordan received thousands of letters of thanks and appreciation from people all over the country. During those hearings, says her biographer, Jordan "began her transformation from a politician to a patriot, from an inside player who could get a law passed to an inspirational leader who could influence the beliefs and actions of an entire people. Barbara Jordan became a national leader that week."

In an October 1976 article for the *Texas Monthly*, Walter Shapiro, (who was then an editor for the *Washington Monthly*), examined the gap between Jordan's legislative record and her national stature. Four years into her Congressional tenure, Shapiro described her as "the best-known member of the House of Representatives." But why? Setting aside the impact of her Watergate presentation and her convention keynote, Shapiro said the answer lies in her style - "not her speaking style, although that is part of it, but her legislative style, which is unique among the 435 members of the House. It has many aspects, but the one consistent thread is this: she goes to great lengths not to identify herself any group, bloc, or constituency....By taking care to adhere to the old ways, by emphasizing symbolic gestures, and by showing a reverence for Congress as an institution, she has managed to create the illusion that her vote cannot be taken for granted, when in fact it is almost as predictable [as that of the most liberal Democrat.]"

In avoiding her many potential hyphens, she did not avoid the convictions of her communities, only the limitations of becoming a collection of private wants. "If we are whole people," Jordan told an audience in 1984. "there are some very old words which will be used to define us, words like truth, virtue, honesty. Our political and policy decisions will reflect them and be released once we are old. Our political and policy decisions will be released, can be released, for ethical analysis and hold up wonderfully, with a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds."

By the time she made that speech, Jordan had retired from Congress and become a professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs in Austin, teaching political ethics among other subjects. Multiple sclerosis had weakened her legs and within a short time she would be wheelchair bound. According to her biography, the harsh drugs that she was taking to fight the MS were carcinogenic, and would lead to her death from leukemia complications in January of 1996. Her life may have been high-density, but it was far too short.

About two months ago, the gay Log Cabin Republicans issued a think piece and published a series of ads calling for the end of identity politics. In one way, (although she would not have appreciated the LCR's partisan tone), their pitch would have had a supporter in Barbara Jordan. "Adjective" first, "American" second, is not a credible posture in the United States of September 12, 2001. Nor, for most people, at any time.

That said, some people must stand up and put themselves on the line for gay rights, for women's rights, or for racial equality. Barbara Jordan took a unique position, but it was a stance made possible by Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, who despite their contributions to the entire country, will forever be thought of as great African-Americans because of who they were and what they did. This month is more for them than her. Her life is better celebrated on the Fourth of July.

The Laramie Project:
Not Just Another Small Town Story

By Chuck Perroncel

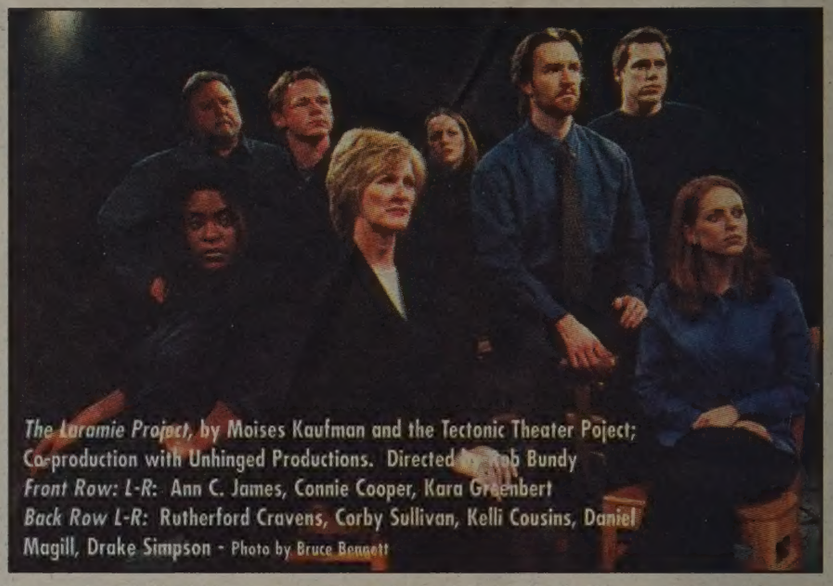
HOUSTON — A diminutive gay college student, who may have been a bit strident about being out, but who was otherwise undistinguished. A pair of drug thugs who regularly 'rolled' easy prey to support their habit. A small mountain town with a historic reputation, but nothing to recently cite it as other than ordinary. A standard arraignment, confession and trial.

These are not the stuff of great drama. When the thugs murdered the student it was a story that should not have made it past the local ten o'clock news and the headlines of the one newspaper in town. But these people and events converged in a moment that catapulted their story to international attention and consequence: The murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming in 1998 and the onslaught of media attention which followed it stunned the sleepy prairie town and altered the course of the struggle for gay rights throughout the USA. Legal precedent was set ("homosexual panic" would no longer be an acceptable defense when gays were wantonly killed by heterosexuals); student groups were galvanized to hold memorial vigils on the day of Mattthew's funeral; gays came out of closets, tunnels and hell holes in droves; and the press and electronic media greatly enlarged the ground swell for "hate crime" legislation.

But none of that is what *The Laramie Project* memorializes.

Moisés Kaufman and his Techtonic Theater Project sought out another - largely untold - story ... the effect of the murder, the trials, the media blitz, and the soul searching they caused on the residents of Laramie as they struggled to heal their wounds and reestablish some sort of normal life. Kaufman and his creative team visited Laramie, Wyoming in November of 1998 and made repeated trips back through early 2000. They interviewed ordinary residents who were associated with the principal players or who were willing to express attitudes about the people and events surrounding the murder - a livery man, the hospital administrator, a deputy who in aiding Matthew was exposed to the HIV virus, her mother ("the best bartender in town"), Baptist preachers and Mormon, Episcopal and Roman Catholic priests.

These folk are as ordinary as the grass of the prairie. They reflect the full spectrum of the American heartland and of the American heart in its genuine sweetness, its idealism, its easily roused stoniness, its humor in the face of tragedy, its guilts, its fears, and its tenderness.



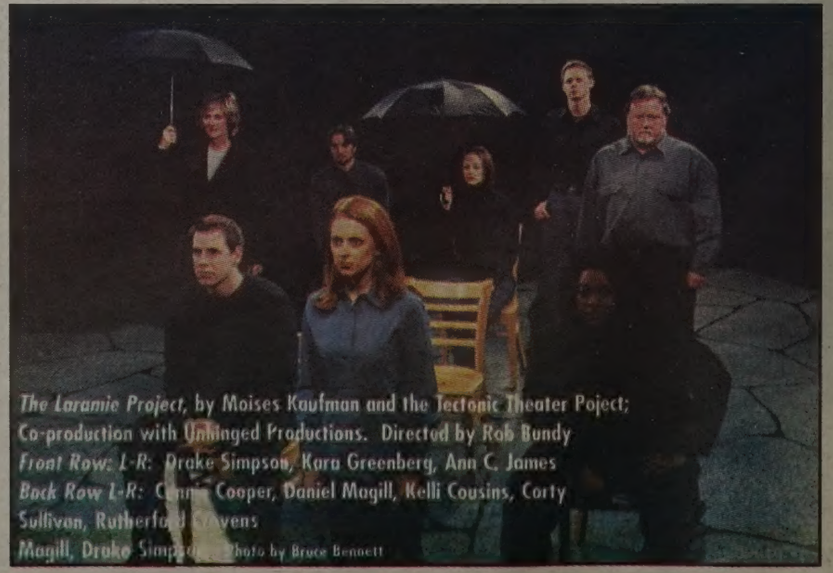
The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Poject; Co-production with Unhinged Productions. Directed by Rob Bundy
Front Row: L-R: Ann C. James, Connie Cooper, Kara Greenbert
Back Row L-R: Rutherford Cravens, Corby Sullivan, Kelli Cousins, Daniel Magill, Drake Simpson - Photo by Bruce Bennett

There is a genuineness to this play, a non-theatrical immediacy, yet it is a piece of highly sophisticated theater. Director Rob Bundy's use of his enormously versatile cast is anything but ordinary. And what a cast! The eight actors play the members of *The Laramie Project* interview/writing team as well as over 48 of the residents of the town. Each portrays from eight to fourteen discrete characters. a tour de force of versatility.

The tight ensemble playing - for which Stages is noted - is never better than it is here. No one stands out because each is outstanding. Connie Cooper, Kelli Cousins, Rutherford Cravens, Kara Greenberg, Ann C. James, Daniel Magill, Drake Simpson and Corby Sullivan are Laramie, Topeka, Kansas City, and even Houston. They portray us with force and sensitivity.

This Stages/Unhinged Productions collaboration is supported and surrounded by a long list of educational events, which included a visit with Mrs. Shepard for the opening, and continues with student matinees and post curtain discussions throughout the run. It is must-see theater. It bears a message of hope for us all and it does so without a moment of preachiness. It's just a look into our souls.

Unhinged Productions and Stages Repertory Theatre present The Laramie Project through Feb. 10 at Stages Repertory Theatre. Post Performance Discussions/Sunday Speaker Series are presented Feb. 3 and 10, 5:30 p.m. 3201 Allen Parkway. 713-52-STAGE.



The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Poject; Co-production with Unhinged Productions. Directed by Rob Bundy
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Magill, Drake Simpson - Photo by Bruce Bennett

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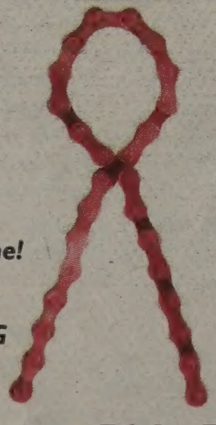

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Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin

All the Rage - The Story of Gay Visibility in America

By Susanna Danuta Walters

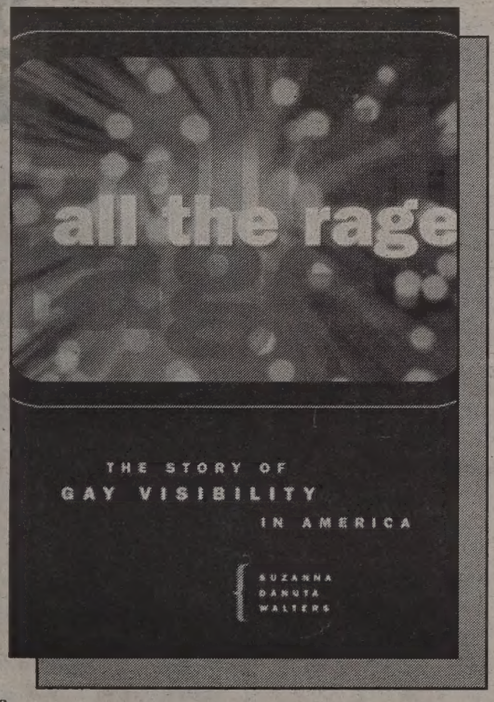
Gay men and lesbians enjoy more visibility now than ever before. We are regularly depicted in TV shows and movies, as are our issues. Some GL people even think our acceptance has reached the point where we don't even need to advocate for our civil rights anymore.

So, given this scenario, what more is there for us to do? According to Susanna Danuta Walters, a whole lot more.

Systematically, piece by piece, Walters exposes the myth that is gay acceptance in the media, showing that the pictures painted of us on film and TV are more about stereotypes than reality.

She also breaks down the all of the imagery, discussing the "safe" drag queens in *To Wong Foo* who were played by three "macho" men, as a jokey stereotype, and of course none of them get to have sex either.

Then there is the all rich, all white clique shown in *Broken Hearts Club*, the *Queer as Folk* boys whose lives revolve around sex and who don't seem to have any genuine affection for each other, and even the characters in popular films like *As Good As It Gets, My Best Friend's Wedding,* and *In and Out.*



According to Walters, these are gay people without a community. They provide comic relief, a shoulder to cry on, and some much-needed advice, but generally don't have much to do beyond that. They are one-dimensional characters, these gay people who only hang out with straights, and who are inevitably wealthy, white, and male.

Yet Walters hasn't written this book just to be negative. She admits that we have, in many ways, taken steps forward. She is just tired of the "We're really no different from straight people" argument that has become entirely too common within the gay community, and an entirely too common depiction of us in the media.

One of the best ways in which the author illustrates this ongoing trend is by taking the opening paragraphs of several different stories on gay parents. All of the openings stress how much like "straight" people the lives of gays with children are. Nothing is said about the special opportunities and chances for diversity open to these kids, nothing is said about how the parents will handle the inevitable homophobia that is going to come up at some point - it's all about how we're just Ward and June Cleaver with a twist.

And that is another problem, according to Walters. For not only do we have to fight to be represented realistically, we also need to fight to tear down the false models of normalcy that still enslave our culture, rather than trying to fit into them.

Walters book is not very long, just about 300 pages. But the author has done her homework, covering everything from the outright homophobic portrayals of gays shown on shows like *Marcus Welby* and in movies like *Making Love*, to the more modern but still limited portrayals seen on *Will and Grace*, and *Spin City*, and in movies like *Broken Hearts Club, Trick* and *The Truth about Jane.*

Fast-paced, comprehensive, thoroughly researched and as entertaining as it is disturbing, *All The Rage* will give you a whole new outlook on who we are and how we are presented to the world.

All the Rage - The Story of Gay Visibility in America by Susanna Danuta Walters is published by The University of Chicago Press and is available in fine gay bookstores everywhere. Susanna Danuta Walters will be interviewed Monday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m. on 90.1 KPFT-FM's Queer Voices.

Our reviewer's rating: **A+**

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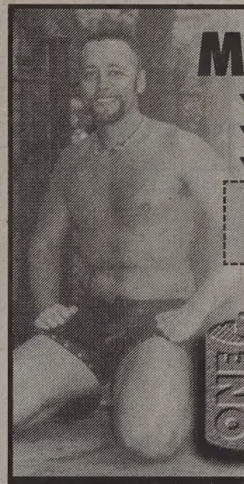

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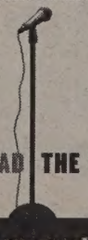

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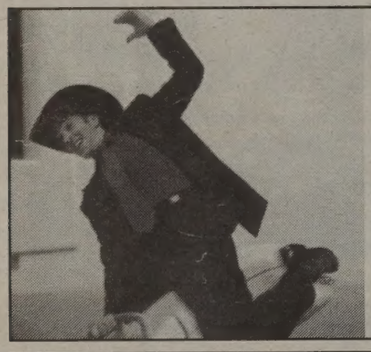

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An Austin Theatre Alliance Presentation

Give her an inch... Hedwig Rocks Austin

By Peter Dean

AUSTIN — Opening night at Zach Scott's production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* gave the audience so much more than they bargained for. And was it loud, scary, beautiful and incredibly entertaining!

"Whether you like it or not - here's Hedwig!" we are warned at the opening of the show.

In his first appearance on an Austin Stage, Andrew Rannells (New York guest artist) stars as Hedwig, the charismatic, larger-than-life rock and roll vamp in an electrifying musical performance, which is by turns raucous, hilarious, and thought provoking! It took a few minutes for Rannells to get comfortable to the small stage, but once he did he was able to convince the audience that he was Hedwig, and delivered a powerful performance. Taking control of the stage as well as the audience and providing us with a colorful and outrageous journey to America's heartland.

Local favorite Susanne Abbott shares the stage as Yitzak, Hedwig's androgynous back-up singer. In an outstanding performance, Susanne surprises us by showing that she is more masculine than we could ever imagine.

overpowering desire to find her other half, whoever or whatever that might be. Somewhere between the cramped motels rooms and seedy nightclubs, she pursues her dreams and discovers the origin of love. Throwing in some local anecdotes and engaging members of the audience give this show an intimate and personal touch.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch opened its official Off-Broadway run on Feb. 14, 1998, at the Jane Street Theatre in the old Hotel Riverview. The Show has been embraced by critics and audiences alike, quickly becoming something of a cult classic. The film version won a 2001 Sundance Film Festival award and a 2001 Berlin Film Festival award. It also screened in Austin at the 2001 Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival. The musical brings to stage every facet of Hedwig's life with painstaking detail. Hedwig and the Angry Inch was written by John Cameron Mitchell with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask.

Zachary Scott Theatre Center presents
Hedwig and the Angry Inch.
Pictured: Andrew Rannells as Hedwig. Photo by Kirk R. Tuck

Hedwig and the Angry Inch tells the story of transsexual rocker Hedwig Schmidt, an East German immigrant and her search for stardom and love. Born a boy named Hansel whose life's dream is to find his other half, he reluctantly submits to a sex change operation in order to marry an American G.I. and get over the Berlin Wall to freedom. With a botched sex change operation, Hedwig finds herself left high, dry and divorced in a Kansas trailer park. She pushes to form a rock band and encounters a lover/protégé in young Tommy Gnosis, who eventually leaves her, steals her songs and becomes a huge rock star. Based on an immigrant woman who used to baby-sit for librettist John Cameron Mitchell while turning tricks in her Kansas trailer, Hedwig finds herself lost and alone, lashing out in rebellion against her physical and emotional mutilation, all the while motivated by an

Directed by Zachary Scott's Artistic Director Dave Steakley, Hedwig runs on ZACH's Whisenhunt Arena Stage through March 17, 1510 Toomey Rd. Info: www.zachscott.com or 512-476-0541, ext. 1.

***Our reviewer's rating:* A**

Silly Psycho, Raging Romeo: Fort Worth Stages Offer Varied Entertainment

By Steven Alan McGaw

FT. WORTH — For its fifth Labor of Love show (some proceeds are earmarked for local AIDS charities), Fort Worth Theatre has chosen to present Charles Busch's silly puff pastry of a play, *Psycho Beach Party*. It's a deft, if lightweight, script, merging 60s surf-and-babes cinema with turgid, B-movie style psychological thriller. Add a dash of gay-sensibility camp, and it's a recipe for raucous entertainment; check your brain at the door, thanks very much.

For the most part, FWT delivers. The show's a bit lean on the technical side and sluggish pacing mars a few moments, but general antic energy and some hilariously on-target performances make this a party worth attending.

It's tempting to gush over Sara Holder's showy turn as Chicklet, a winsome beach bunny who soon displays a startling cadre of other personalities. Holder gives the role a gawky physicality that aligns perfectly with Chicklet's splintered psyche. Similarly, Todd Camp's comic timing and subtlety (relatively speaking) enhance his portrayal of Yo Yo, the beach bum whose love of decorating and cooking prepare us for a later revelation.

But the best performance in the show comes from handsome Scott Hardgrove, as the psychology major who's dropped out of college to live the gnarly life. From his vapid delirium when talking surfing to his arch deconstruction of Chicklet's train-wreck mental health, Hardgrove simply "gets it," mining every nuance of Busch's deceptively simple dialogue.

The rest of the cast, though earnest, is a mixed bag. Leslie Ann Perez Solis is agreeably daffy as a third-rate actress who enters the fray, and Lon Barrera dominates whenever he's on stage as Mrs. Forrest, Chicklet's deranged and domineering mother. (That's right, Mother - think Joan Crawford in straight jacket)

On the other hand, Carlos Olguin's laid-back surfer dude simply seems groggy, and Lisa Jones, as best friend Berdine, undermines her own comic worth by speaking too fast to be intelligible. Young Richard Shelton, as surfer Nicky, shows promise with energy, a strong voice, and comic physicality.

Clearly director Dave Stovall brought vivid ideas on character and comic "bits" to this production; sadly, he also brought a tendency to line his actors up four and five abreast, and keep them way too far upstage. In cavernous Orchestra Hall, every attempt at intimacy must be made. The space's own imperfections limit lighting possibilities, but the cast can at least be close by. Also, the show could pick up energy by adjustment of the volume knob on the sound system; frequently, the faint music suggested it was intended for another audience, not the one there in the theatre.

Still, FWT's handsome and colorful cast takes Busch's beach ball and runs with it. Audiences seeking laughs should accept this party's invitation.

In downtown Fort Worth, Jubilee Theatre offers a thrilling ride with *Romeo*, Rudy Eastman's daring adaptation of Shakespeare's familiar story of star-crossed lovers. Bard purists should be advised, this is very much Eastman's riff on Shakespeare, not just a new costume rack rolled onstage. In this re-imagining of the tale, set in 1890s New Orleans, Eastman pares dialogue, simplifies, adds vernacular and Louisiana locales, renames characters, you name it. Yet what emerges is surely what Shakespeare sought: a tragic, erotically charged story of young love, old grudges and crippling circumstance.

In such a bold production, it might be expected to focus on the script while watching the show. However, the extraordinary cast assembled for *Romeo* simply won't let you do that, demanding attention with several stand-out performances, and a seamless ensemble feel.

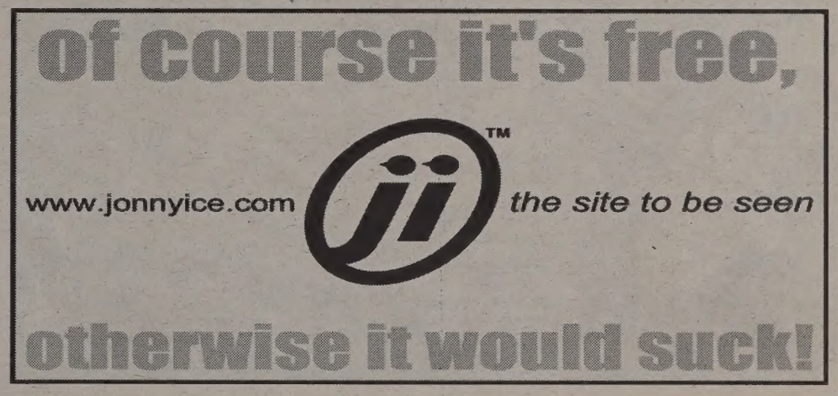
Deborah Prickett begins slowly as Juliet, at first seeming too frail and tentative, but gaining power and momentum as he goes. LaVar Veale, on the other hand, bursts out of the gate as impetuous Romeo, and largely fulfills that promise throughout the show. Only in the most ornate passages of the dialogue does Veale suggest he'd be more at home with contemporary speech.

Perhaps Eastman's best move is morphing the Friar into Madame Laveau, a Caribbean-accented priestess who dispenses potions and advice. It's a great idea, and sold entirely by the deft work of Evette Perry-Buchanan. F. Carl Brown is sympathetic and appealing as Juliet's father, and Sharonda Burks waits till late in the show to turn on the fire as Juliet's quietly but fiercely determined mother. Her angry response to her daughter's rejection of marriage is a polished gem.

One performance, however, stands above the rest in this production, and that's Sheran Goodspeed-Keyton's lively, carefully sculpted portrayal of Juliet's nurse. Clad in a voluminous dress and no-nonsense kerchief around her head, Goodspeed-Keyton finds every bit of humor in her character, yet never lets us forget her devotion to her young charge. Ultimately, it is the nurse's tears who spur our own, her sorrow almost palpable.

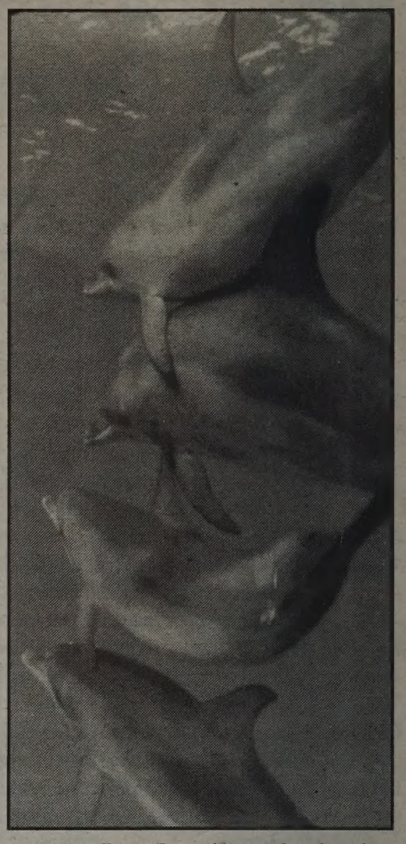
Eastman also directs the show, and his brisk pacing enhances the economy of his script. Lighting is fine, and the multi-leveled stage is enhanced with some skillful painting and a few French Quarter-like touches. The period and atmosphere of the show are aided by the use of darker Scott Joplin compositions, and the classic "St. James Infirmary."

Fort Worth Theatre presents Charles Busch's Psycho Beach Party through Feb. 16. 4401 Trail Lake Dr. 817-921-5300. Jubilee Theatre presents its Shakespearean adaptation, Romeo, through Feb. 17. 506 Main St. 817-338-4411



Swimming with Dolphins

By Peter Dean



AUSTIN — Have you ever thought about what it would be like to swim with dolphins? The latest IMAX film, *Dolphins,* at the Bob Bullock State History Museum offers the chance to find out, without getting wet.

Narrated by Pierce Brosnan, with a fantastic soundtrack featuring songs and music by Sting, this Academy Award-nominated film invites the viewer to experience the serene underwater world of dolphins like never before on the giant screen.

The film captures dolphins in their natural habitat, with incredible underwater footage from the dazzling coral reefs of the Bahamas to the wind-swept seas of Patagonia. Watch as the screen fills with aqua blue water, as we follow the inquisitive Atlantic spotted dolphins, acrobatic dusky dolphins and the beloved bottlenose dolphin of *Flipper* fame. You will learn some of the secrets of dolphin communication with marine biologists, including the different sounds they use to talk to each other and the super-sensitive sense of touch. This film explores the bond between humans and dolphins to show how we can help preserve these amazing animals.

These mammals are said to be the most intelligent species next to humans. Known worldwide for their performances at zoos and water parks, we learn in this film just how the dolphins are trained and that we can learn from them.

In this film we meet a young scientist, Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski (a graduate of Texas A&M), and her two colleagues, as they lead a scientific exploration into the intriguing world of the dolphins. While most of what is known about dolphins comes from studying them in captivity, this team of scientists conducts their research in the wild. This proves to be a far more strenuous, time-consuming and even dangerous endeavor. Using innovative scientific methodology and technology, they attempt to uncover the mysteries of dolphin behavior. To protect the dolphins as well as humans, there is no public swimming allowed with the dolphins, but those curious to get a closer look can take tour boats for dolphin-watching trips. For this research, the film crew and scientists obtained a special permit to film and study the dolphins and were accompanied by a conservation officer from the area.

Also in this feature we get to meet JoJo, a curious male bottlenose dolphin. Locals off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the British West Indies named JoJo many years ago. Dean Bernal started swimming here fifteen years ago when he met JoJo. JoJo followed Dean on his daily swim out to the reef, getting closer each time. Over time, the two bonded in a unique human/dolphin friendship. They still swim and play together, spending hours in the colorful coral reefs among sharks, manta rays, turtles, whale sharks and other dolphins. Solitary dolphins like JoJo are rare. Dolphins are highly social animals, but it's their own kind with whom they most want to associate. In fact, there are only a few dolphins in the world that seek out human companions. It is not known why JoJo spends his time alone or even why he has taken to Dean.

Dolphins is produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films in association with the National Wildlife Foundation and supported with major funding provided by the National Science Foundation and Museum Film Network. For more information on this film visit www.dolphinsfilm.com.

Educational and entertaining, *Dolphins* a short forty minutes packed full of beautiful sights.

Dolphins runs through April 19 at the Bob Bullock State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress Ave. Info: 512-936-4629 or www.TheStoryofTexas.com.

Our reviewer's rating: **A**

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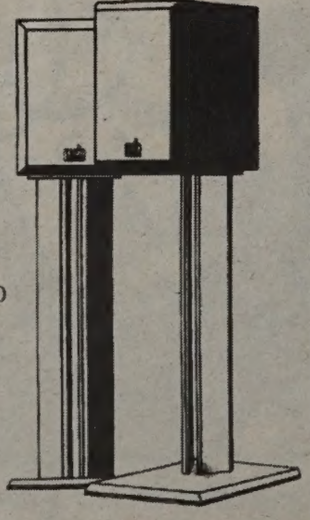

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It's Showtime!

ARLINGTON

Theatre Arlington presents ***The Boys Next Door***, through Feb. 17. 305 W. Main St. www.theatrearlington.org or 817-275-7661

AUSTIN

The UT School of Music presents the ***Hradec Králové Men's Chorus,*** Monday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m. Bates Recital Hall. Free. The UT School of Music, 512-475-8195.

UT Performing Arts Center presents ***Flamenco Festival,*** Feb. 1-2. Hogg Auditorium. www.utpac.org or 512-471-1444.

The Paramount Theater presents ***Oklahoma!*** through Feb. 11.

Dolphins - the IMAX version - runs through April 19 at the Bob Bullock State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress Ave. Info: 512-936-4629 or www.TheStoryofTexas.com.

Order of The Black Sun presents ***The 13 Circles,*** Feb. 8-23. VORTEX Repertory Company 2307 Manor Rd. 512-478-LAVA or www.vortexrep.org.

Different Stages and Austin TheatreWorks present Ann Ciccolella's ***Madame X,*** through Feb. 9 at The Off-Center, 2211-A Hidalgo St. 512-454-TIXS (8497).

The Dinosaur Within runs through Feb. 10 at the State Theater. 512-469-SHOW or www.austintheatrealliance.org.

Taylor Cage hosts ***Queer Waves***, a showcase for GLBT musicians and special guests on KOOP 91.7 FM every Saturday, 4:30 p.m. ***This Way Out*** airs Fridays at 5 p.m., followed by ***Outspoken*** at 6 p.m. www.koop.org or 512-472-1369.

Zachary Scott Theatre presents ***Hedwig & The Angry Inch*** on the Whisenhunt Arena Stage through March 17. 1510 Toomey Rd. Info: www.zachscott.com or 512-476-0541, ext. 1.

DALLAS

Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents ***Lou Rawls,*** Feb. 1-2. www.dallassymphony.comor 214-871-4000.

The McKinney Avenue Contemporary (The MAC) presents the second season of the ***SOLO Series***, featuring Sarah Vowell in ***Take the Canolli*** through Feb. 2, 8 p.m. 214-953-1773.

The Dallas Theater Center presents ***Blur*** through Feb. 10 at Kalita Humphries Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 214-522-6499 or www.dallastheatercenter.org.

The Dallas Opera presents Mozart's The ***Marriage of Figaro.*** Feb. 2, 6, 10. 214-443-1000 or www.dallasopera.org.

Anytime is right for Sondheim, and Allied Theatre Group starts the New Year by ***Putting It Together.*** Runs through Feb. 9. 3055 S. University. 817- 784-9378.

Oak Lawn Symphonic Band visits ***The Wild West,*** Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church. $10.

FT. WORTH

Circle Theatre opens its 21st season with ***Last Train to Nibroc***. 230 West Fourth St. 817-877-3040.

Theatre Arlington presents ***The Boys Next Door*** through Feb. 17. 305 W. Main St. 817-261-9628.

Fort Worth Theatre presents Charles Busch's ***Psycho Beach Party*** through Feb. 16. 4401 Trail Lake Dr. 817-921-5300.

Jubilee Theatre presents its Shakespearean adaptation, ***Romeo,*** through Feb. 17. 506 Main St. 817-338-4411

The Fort Worth Men's Chorus is auditioning new singers for the 2002 season and beyond. Rehearsals are Tuesday nights in the Science Lecture Hall on the Texas Wesleyan University Campus on Wesleyan Ave., just off Rosedale. www.fwmc.org.

HOUSTON

Society for Performing Arts presents ***Tradition Meets the Present.*** Sunday, Feb. 3, Wortham Center Cullen Theatre. 713-227-4SPA.

Unhinged Productions and Stages Repertory Theatre present ***The Laramie Project*** through Feb. 10 at Stages Repertory Theatre. Post Performance Discussions/Sunday Speaker Series are presented Feb. 3 and 10, 5:30 p.m. 3201 Allen Parkway. 713-52-STAGE.

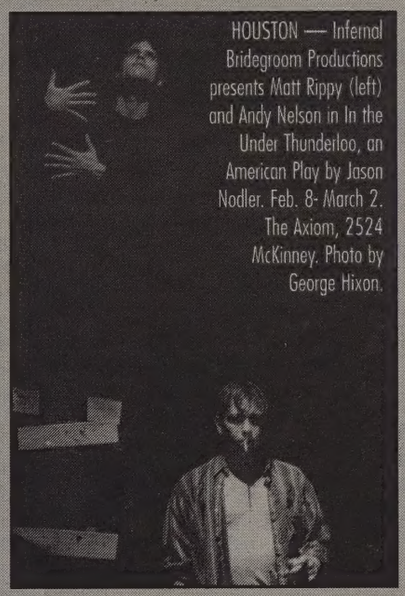
DiverseWorks presents Claude Wampler's film ***Ambulance*** through Feb. 2. 1117 East Freeway. 713-223-8346.

Houston Symphony's Christoph Eschenbach directs a program of ***Berlioz and Mendelssohn,*** Feb. 1-3. ***Johnny Mathis*** performs Feb. 7. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. 713-224-7575.

The Alley Theater presents ***Jitney*** through Feb. 9. Of Mice and Men runs through Feb. 17. 615 Texas Ave. 713-228-8421.

Houston Grand Opera presents Tchaikovsky's ***Eugene Onegin,*** Feb. 2, 5, 8. Of Mice and Men runs Feb. 1, 3, 9, 12, 15. 713-227-ARTS.

Theatre New West presents ***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*** through Feb. 23. 1415 California. 713-394-0464.



HOUSTON — Infernal Bridegroom Productions presents Matt Rippy (left) and Andy Nelson in In the Under Thunderloo, an American Play by Jason Nodler. Feb. 8- March 2. The Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Photo by George Hixon.

Theatre Suburbia presents ***The Desperate Hours*** through Feb. 2. 1410 W. 43rd. 713-682-3525 or www.theatresuburbia.com.

Poetically inclined? ***Open mic poetry slam*** is held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8 p.m. Kim C. hosts. Oscar's Creamery, 1201 Westheimer. Info: 713-529-1672.

90.1 KPFT-FM hosts two GLBT-themed shows, ***After Hours*** (airing each Saturday at midnight), and ***Queer Voices***, (airing Mondays at 8-10 p.m.)

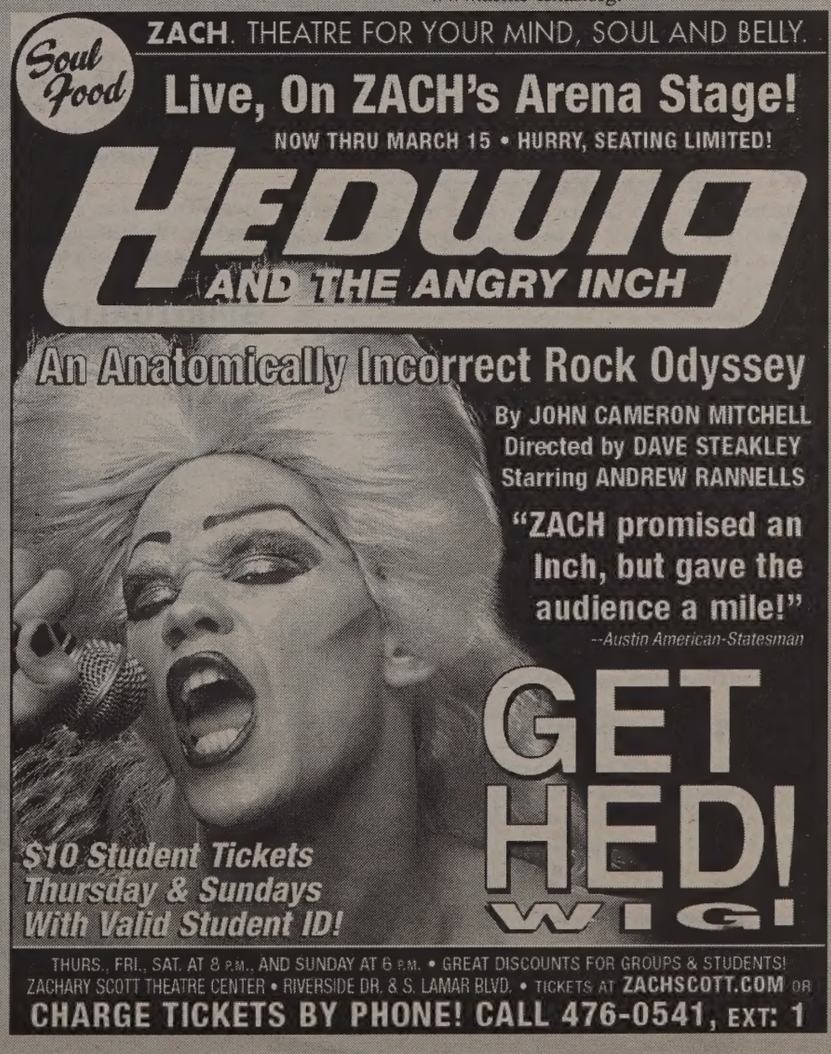
Chris Wilson's Actors Theatre of Houston presents Steven Dietz's ***Lonely Planet*** through Feb. 2 at Unhinged Productions, 3304 La Branch at Elgin. 713-529-6606.

Comedian Nancy Ford hosts ***open mic*** for musicians, poets, and comics Thursdays, 8-11 p.m. at The G Spot (between Chances and The New Barn), 1100 Westheimer.

Final Saturday! Nancy Ford's ***The Dyke Show.*** Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:30 p.m. Unhinged Productions, 3304 La Branch at Elgin. $10. Info: 713-524-8707.

SAN ANTONIO

Alamo City Men's Chorale seeks additional singers for its 15th season. Experience singing with a choir or chorus, no matter how long ago, is desirable. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. 210-495-7464 or access www.acmc-texas.org.



Calendar

AUSTIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Log Cabin Republicans of Austin meets Thursday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. at Tres Amigos restaurant, 1206 W 38th St. Meet several Republican candidates for office, who discuss their upcoming primary elections. New faces welcome. Info: lcraustin@yahoo.com or 512-916-3236.

Center for Women's Business meets for informative noon lunches at least once a week at 4100 Ed Bluestein, inside the City of Austin Small Business Assistance Center. Schedule info: 512-472-8522.

Invade the straight world, one straight bar at a time. Second Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Locations vary. Info: www.gorillathing.com.

The LesBiGay Students' Association (LBGSA) meets every Thursday, 8-10 p.m. in Sanchez 296 (Speedway between MLK and 21st) for discussions, movies, guest speakers and games. Or, meet them for coffee Wednesdays, 10 p.m., at the Spiderhouse outside patio, 2908 Fruth Ave. Hungry? How about lunch at the Family Tree, West Mall by steps in front of Architecture Building, Fridays at noon. Info: www.lbgsa.org.

PFLAG-Austin meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th @ Evans. Info: 512-302-PFLAG.

The Bisexual Network of Austin sponsors TGIB socials every Friday at 6:30 p.m. and open to all interested people. The Bi Women's Support Group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Austin History Center and the Bi Boyz BBQ is held on the tenth of each month. Info: www.main.org/binetaustin or 512-370-9573.

ART

Acclaimed Cuban artist Antonio Eligio Fernández, professionally known as Tonel, stars in a special one-man show, "Tonel. Recent Works on Paper" at Gallery 106 through March 31. 2832 E. MLK Blvd. 512-472-1219.

Austin Visual Arts Association offers life drawing classes with visual artist David Ketchum. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Free coffee and snacks, and easels are provided. Cost: $5. 3710 Cedar St. Info: call David Ketchum, 512-443-6331 or the AVAA office at 512-457-0075.

Women & Their Work present Inside/Outside by Robin Dru, through Feb. 16. 1710 Lavaca. 512-477-1064.

FUND-RAISERS

Project Transitions benefits from 5th Annual Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Saturday, Feb. 2, Austin Lyric Opera Building, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Tickets: $75. Info: 512-454-8646 or www.ProjectTransitions.org/GuessWho.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Austin Tennis Club (ATC) is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting tennis and social activities for the gay and lesbian community in Austin and the surrounding areas. Players meet for regular tennis session at South Austin Tennis Center from Fridays, 7-9 p.m. on three reserved courts. Info: http://www.austintennisclub.com or austintennisclub@hotmail.co.n.

Feeling vulnerable? Sensei Suzanne Pinette of Sun Dragon Martial Arts offers a free class In the Kyokushin style of karate, specifically tailored for women, children and families. 512-416-9735 or email to sun1dragon@aol.com.

Texas 360 Aquatics, the newest swim team in Austin, seeks swimmers of all ages and abilities to join the team. Info: texswim360@hotmail.com, www.texas360aquatics.com or Keith, 512-740-8457.

HIV Wellness Center seeks personal trainers to work with people living with HIV/AIDS. Minimal pay is negotiable. Info: Monica, 512-467-0088.

The Austin Men's Project is young gay, bi and curious men coming together to build a strong and supportive community. Info: 512-447-4270 or austinmensproject.com.

Do you want to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS? Would you be comfortable talking about sex in bars on 6th or 4th Street (like you don't already)? If so, then volunteer with the AIDS Services of Austin prevention team. Info: 512-406-6167.

Hike, camp, canoe, and do other overwhelmingly wholesome activities with Adventuring Outdoors, a gay recreation group. Meet them at a potluck on the first Wednesday each month, or help plan new activities on the third Tuesday. Info: Peter, 512-418-8881 or www.main.org/adventuring.

The Friends of David Powell Clinic seeks volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to assist in fund-raising activities, clerical work, and data base collection. The David Powell Clinic specializes in the treatment of HIV infected clients, and serves the uninsured and the under insured residents of Austin and Travis County. Info: Henry, 512-389-3958.

Rainbow Roller Skaters meets semimonthly, second and fourth Wednesdays, 8 p.m. at Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd & 183. Tickets: $6, benefiting local gay and lesbian charities. Info: Don, 512-851-9576 or e-mail dbaker62@earthlink.net.

Austin Frontrunners meets for its weekly walk/run each Sunday morning, 8:15-8:30 a.m. Then it's time for breakfast. Info: Charles, 512-473-8334 or www.frontrunners.org.

SPIRITUALITY

Gay Men's Association meets first and third Fridays of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the University Catholic Center, University and E. 21st to discuss spirituality. Info: 512-476-7351.

BEAUMONT

Beaumont PFLAG meets twice monthly at 1575 Spindletop Ave. Call Caleb for dates and times. Info: 409-722-1632 or email Caleb.hutchens@NetZero.net.

Lambda A.A. Group meets Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. All meetings are open and smoke-free. 1385 Calder. Info: 409-866-6165.

DALLAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new, as-yet unnamed social group meets weekly, giving monogamous couples the opportunity to meet other couples for friendship, outings, and traveling. Couples new to Dallas or those who are on a short visit who would like to see the city are encouraged to call. Info: 214-395-6774 or roniq69@hotmail.com

Local politicians Steve Wolens and Terri Hodge discuss issues pertaining to the recent redistricting, and its effects on the GLBT community when Dallas Stonewall Democrats meet. Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m., Rolando's Mexican Restaurant, 5486 Denton Dr. Cutoff. Officers for the upcoming year will also be elected at this meeting.

Judith Yates discusses Personal Safety and Crime Prevention for GLBT persons and their friends, Saturday, Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 21, 6:45-8:45 p.m. Info: PFLAGJude@aol.com; Will Amason, 214-522-4100; or www.BeSafeSelfDefense.com.

Dallas Gay Hungarian Society, a gay Hungarian cultural organization, is open to anyone who speaks fluent Hungarian. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. Email magyardallas@aol.com.

The Purple Light Transgender Support Group meets Sundays, 7 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan. Info: www.goldleopard.com/purple.

Gay? Mature? Hungry? Dallas/Ft. Worth Prime Timers meet several times throughout the month for meals and fellowship. Info: 972-504-8866.

Baffled by bisexuality? BiNet Dallas meets the first Friday of each month for support/discussion, 7 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan and the third Saturday of the month for brunch, 10:30 a.m. at La Madeleine (Lemmon at Oak Lawn). Info: www.geocities.com/binetdallas, or alexande@ticnet.com.

Achtung, baby! Dallas Gay Deutschklub is an organization dedicated to speaking and practicing the German language. Open to anyone who speaks fluent German. Info: 214-324-8085 or deutschklub@iname.com.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Texas Twisters, Dallas/Fort Worth's gay and lesbian country-western dance club, holds its general membership meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month, 7 p.m., at various locations. www.texastwisters.org or 972-993-2021, ext. 5052.

Hispanic Outreach Team (HOT) meets to assemble safe sex packets and to promote HIV relapse prevention among gay Hispanic males on the first and third Saturdays of the month, 10 a.m. John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 223.

The Resource Center of Dallas is starting a new health-related outreach team. The outreach team, H.E.A.D. Hunters, is open to gay and lesbian people who want to promote physical, sexual and mental health in the gay and lesbian community while meeting fun people and volunteering to make a difference in the community. Meets first and third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. in the John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center 2701 Reagan St. Info: India, 214-528-0144 or istewart@resourcecenterdallas.org.

Positively Young provides resources, provides psychological and emotional support for HIV/AIDS infected youth and their parents/guardians. Info: Human Services Network, 972-283-0468.

Resource Center of Dallas offers free oral HIV testing and chlamydia and gonorrhea screenings Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 214-528-0144 to set appointment.

Mesa Redonda (Round Table), an HIV positive support group meets the first Thursday of each month. Positive Personals meets each first and third Tuesday, 6-10 p.m. at The Brick, 4117 Maple. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 142.

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Free. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Info: Jay Lewis, 214-207-5903.

Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center offers screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases each Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. at 4012 Cedar Springs. $50. For appointments, call Donna Parks, RN, BSN at 214-528-2336.

DENTON

GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Association of Denton), the University of North Texas' gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered and/or straight student organization meets Wednesdays. Info: http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD.

Interweave, Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, invites people of all faiths and sexual preferences for discussion every Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St. Info: Rachel at (940) 566-1833.

University of North Texas Delta Lambda Phi fraternity meets Sundays. Info: http://orgs.unt.edu/dlp.

EL PASO

Under 22? Youth OUTreach meets Thursdays, 6 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m. for lively discussions, activities, and community involvement. http://www.GAYelpaso.org. LAMBDA Parents meet Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. http://www.LAMBDA.org. Both groups meet at the Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa.

FORT WORTH

Celebration Community Church is a church for people of all denominations. 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Info: 817-335-3222 or www.churchhome.org.

Fort Worth Church Project is pastored by David Boger, an openly gay graduate of TCU's Brite Divinity School. First Jefferson Church, 1959 Sandy Lane. Info: 817-595-6925 or www.fortworthchurch.com.

GALVESTON

Transgenders in the Brazoria County and Galveston area and the surrounding areas are encouraged to call C.A.T.S. Community Awareness for Trangender Support, which meets the first Friday of each month. Info: 409-741-2501 or fax 801-315-6764.

PFLAG Galveston holds a membership drive at Purgatory (located on Mechanic between 25th and 26th Streets in the Strand district) on the second Monday of each month. Volunteers are needed.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Smith discusses her personal journey. when PFLAG Houston meets, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas. Info: http://pflaghouston.org or 713-46P-FLAG.

New and current members of RSICSS's Imperial Court for Reign XVIII, The Reign of Kickass, Camp, Courtesy, and Congalines, meet Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m. at Chances, 1100 Westheimer. 713-524-3688.

Gal Pals Social Events, a division of Houston Women's Festival, presents Speed Dating for Women. Saturday, Feb. 9, 6 to 8 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee. Free is spectators, $20 for participants. 713-861-3316.

The Houston Gay Lesbian Bi Veterans Association (GLBVA) meets the first Monday of the month at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818 or www.glbva.org, or houstonglbva@earthlink.net

Discuss the priorities of the GLBT community as well as the Mayor's thoughts with Janine Brunjes, the Mayor's Liaison to the GLBT community. Roundtables are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m. 713-520-1142.

Lesbian Book Discussion Group meets twice a month to provide lesbians a place to meet, talk about great books, and form friendships. Info: http://www.geocities.com/lesbianldg/ or 713-383-6738.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus general meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: voter@hglpc.com.

The past is present. Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc., 1609 West Main - #4, is open Saturdays, 12 noon-6 p.m. and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Info: 713-227-5973 or www.gcam.org.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center offers varied programming for Houston's GLBT community. Friday, Feb. 1: Q-Patrol (new members call 713-528-SAFE first), 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 2: Q-Patrol 9:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-2022.

The parade's over, but the party continues. Pride Committee of Houston is currently seeking volunteers to help produce the biggest Pride celebration in North America. Info: 713-529-6979, info@pridehouston.org or www.pridehouston.org.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation meets the third Wednesday of each month, 1400 Hermann Drive in the Gallery, first floor. Volunteers are needed to work with the local steering committee as plans get underway for upcoming events. Info: 713-520-1142.

Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf meet every second Friday, 7:30 p.m. at Montrose Clinic, 213 Westheimer.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at Bering Memorial Methodist Church, room 230. Info: Shelby, 281-485-5097 or email lgirtf-houston@egroups.com.

Cyberwomen, unite! Info about health, politics, resources, a calendar of community meetings and events. FEMNET-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Houston Pride Band welcomes new members to rehearsals each Wednesday, 7 p.m. at 1307 Yale (Dignity Houston). Info: Andy, 713-527-0931.

A Feminist Group for all women (each woman defines her own feminism) meets every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor. Info: Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571 or Laura Reich, 713-529-1886 or ChzHead005@aol.com.

FUND-RAISERS

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston offers its first Rummage-A-Rama, held the first Saturday of each month at Club Nsomnia, 202 Tuam. Booth space available. Info: Michael gates, 713-521-1613.

RSICSS and Her Most Serene Highness, Imperial Princess Royale XVII Shy Anne St. John present Catch a Falling Star. Friday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. at EJ's, 2517 Ralph. Benefits PR Ball. Next, RSICSS and The Prison Bitches help Keith Vyvial from Going to Jail with "The Chain Gang". Sunday, Feb. 3, 8:30 p.m. Benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Bering Omego Care Center's First Wednesday lecture Series addresses TB and HIV: Fears, Facts, and Fallacies. Free, including light supper. Feb. 6, 6 p.m. Reservations: 713-520-7070 ext. 141.

The Montrose Soccer Club is alive and kicking. Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Woodrow Wilson School, 2100 Yupon. Info: MontroseSC@soccer.com.

Southern Country Houston, a lesbian and gay 501(c) 3 dance club, teaches all forms of Country & Western dancing at The New Barn, 1102 Westheimer, Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Info: Patricia or Carl, 713-721-2011.

Lone Star Volleyball Association meets Sundays, 4:30 p.m., University of St. Thomas's Jarabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon St. New players are welcome and play for free. Winter 2002 season starts Jan. 6.

Body Positive Wellness Clinic offers a 3-month core program for HIV positive men and women consisting of supervised exercise training and nutritional counseling as well as optional massage therapy and chiropractic care. Graduates of the program are encouraged to continue using the facilities and receiving all services. Info: 713-524-2374.

The Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing every Tuesday at The Club Houston from 8 p.m.-12 midnight, every Wednesday at Mary's 4-8 p.m. and at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 6-9 p.m., and every Thursday at Toyz Disco, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Please call 713-830-3070 for more information or other testing locations.

SPIRITUALITY

Congregation Beth Israel hosts a monthly study group led by Rabbi Whitman and Rabbi Glickman for gay and lesbian Jews in the Houston area. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Israel Info: Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

New Hope Christian Community holds its nondenominational worship service at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Sundays, 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818 or 713-801-7386.

All-Spanish worship services are celebrated every Saturday, 6 p.m. in the chapel of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. 2025 W 11th St. 713-861-9149 or 713-303-3409.

MINERAL WELLS

Mineral Wells Prime Timers, an organization for older gay and bisexual men and their younger admirers meet the second Saturday of each month. 324 Whispering Oaks Southwind. Info: 940-325-0325 or mwtprime@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The First Wednesday Club, a networking and social group for business and professional women, meets the first Wednesday of each month for food, drink, and general merriment. Info: firstwed@hotmail.com.

Y.U.T.H. Group (Youth United To Help), a peer support and social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth meets the first and third Fridays of every month, 6-8 p.m., 611 E. Myrtle. Info: 210-732-4300 or yuth@glccsa.org.

The Gay + Lesbian Community Center of San Antonio offers a wide variety of social, health, and educational programs each week for the Alamo City's GLBT community. 611 E. Myrtle in the sublevel of the Metropolitan Community Church. Monday through Saturday, 1-8 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Info: 210-732-4300 or http://glccsa.org.

Christie Lee Littleton facilitates the Transgender Support Group, Thursday, Feb. 7. Metropolitan Community Church, 611 Myrtle. Info: 210-472-3597 or Christielee6@aol.com.

Does your organization have a special event of interest to GLBT Texas that you would like to publicize? Please email txtrihoust@aol.com by Friday for publication in next Friday's issue.

you're invited
Thai Nipa
AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE
DELIVERY • CATERING
4315 Lemmon Ave.
@ Wycliff (N.W. Corner)
214-526-6179
LUNCH BUFFETT 11-3 PM
DINNER 5-10 PM

Thanks to The Texas Triangle readers for voting Hut's Hamburgers
Best Burgers In Austin
1997, 1998, 1999 & 2000
Hut's HAMBURGERS
807 West 6th Street,
Austin 78701
(512) 494–1500

dining Guide

Austin

Hut's Hamburgers
807 W. 6th Street
Austin, TX 78703
512-472–0693
Type of Cuisine: Burgers & More
"God Bless Hut's"— Come see why year after year Austinites vote for Hut's as serving the best Hamburgers in town.
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: $4.50

Brick Oven Restaurant
1608 W. 35th Location
Austin, TX 75225
512-453-4330
Type of Cuisine: Italian, Specialty Pizza, Pasta Dishes, Large Wine Selection, Lunch and Dinner Specials
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: Lunch $6-$10, Dinner $10-$15

Ray's Steakhouse
3010 Guadalupe
512-478-0000
Galleria Oaks Shopping Center
13376 US Hwy. 183 N.
512-219-9990
Austin, TX
http://www.rays-steaks.com
Type of Cuisine: Steakhouse
Ray's steakhouse is chef-owned and everything from the delectable appetizers to the steaks, seafood, pork chops, lamb chops and veal reflects Ray's expertise.
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: Lunch $8-$10
Dinnner $17-$30

Frank & Angie's Pizzeria
508 West Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
512-472-3534
Type of Cuisine: Italian
Frank & Angie's cooks begin each day by making dough and sauce from scratch using the freshest ingredients, all of our dishes are homemade.
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: $5.50

Hickory Street Bar & Grille
800 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
514-477-8968
Type of Cuisine: American, Fabulous Food bars, Gourmet 1/2 lb. Burgers and Delicious Entrees, Certified Angus Steaks, Brunch Buffet, Garden Patio, An Austin Casual Dining Tradition.
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: $5-$10

Dallas

Thai Nipa
43 Lemmon Ave
Dallas, TX 75219
214-526-6179
Type of Cuisine: Thai
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: $5

THE ORIGINAL DAVID'S
WOOD FIRED
BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT
1608 W. 35th Location • 512-453-4330
Monday Night Special
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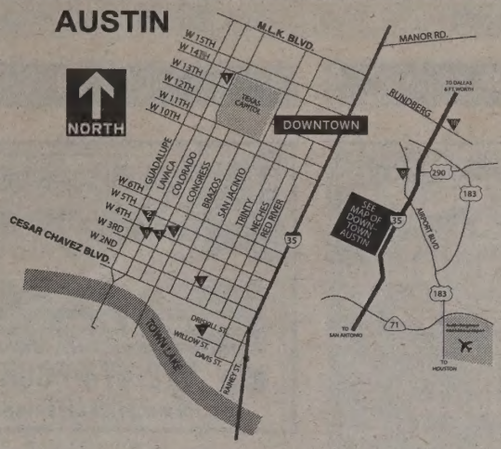

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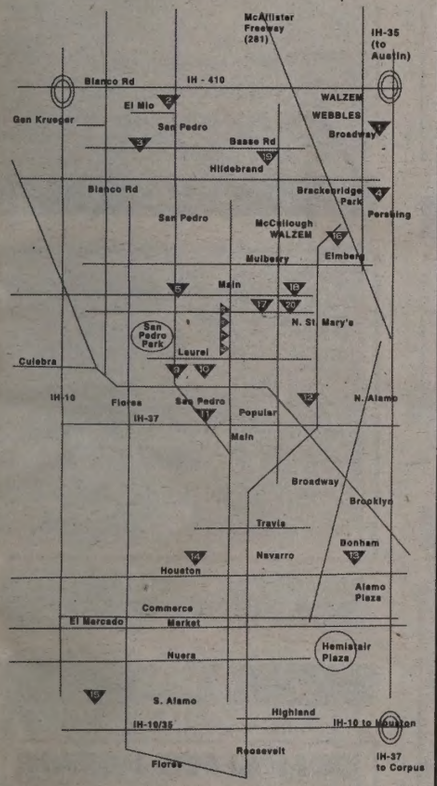

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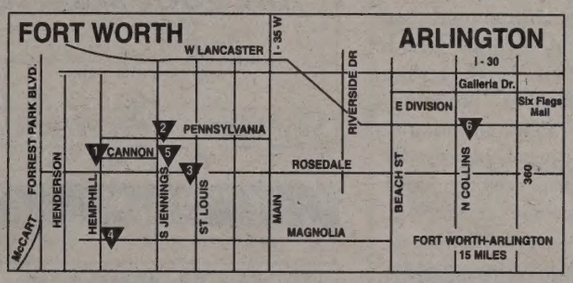

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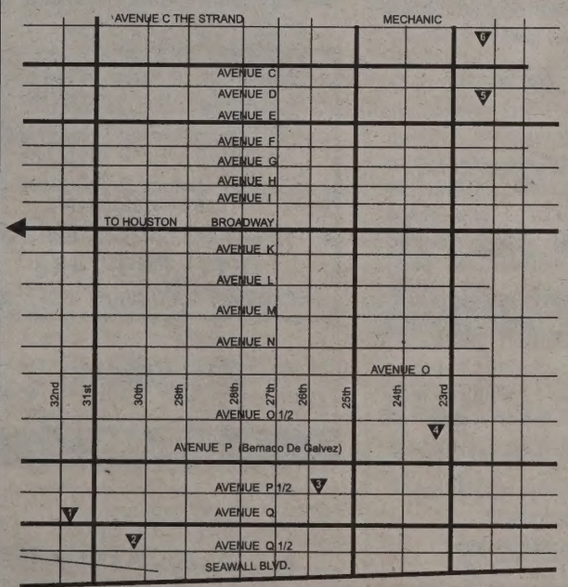

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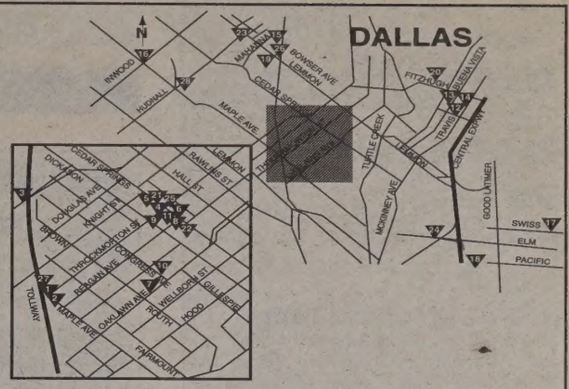

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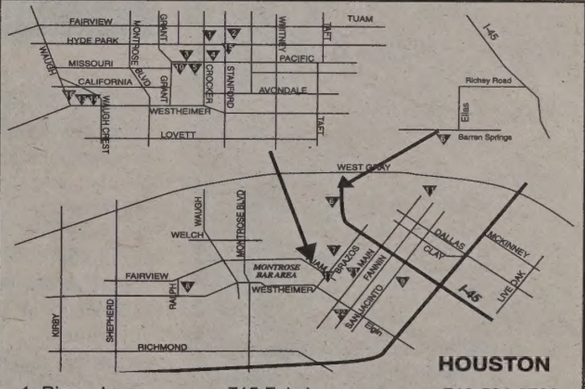

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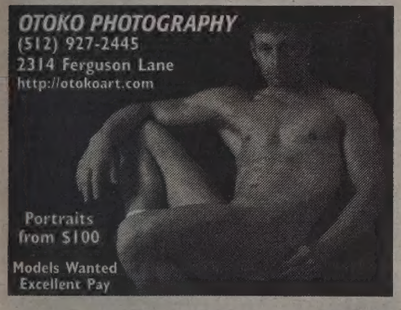

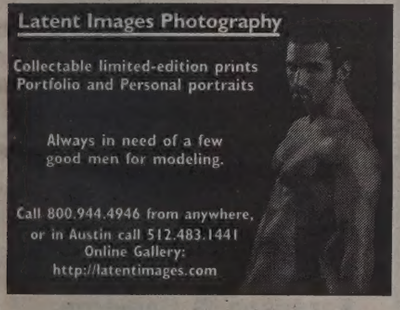

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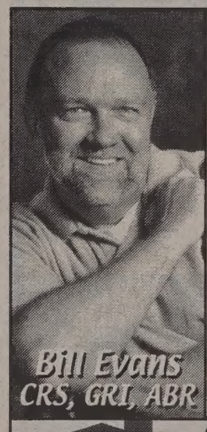

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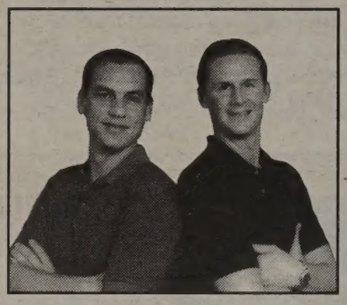

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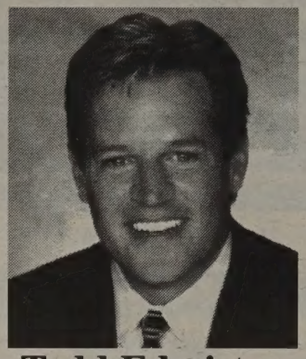

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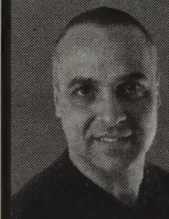

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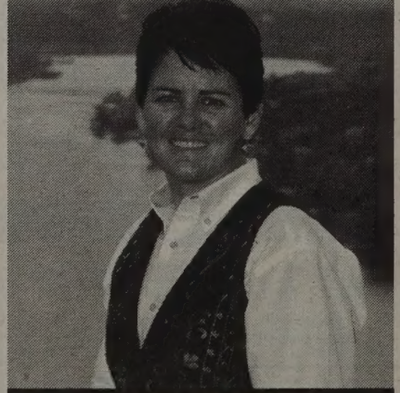

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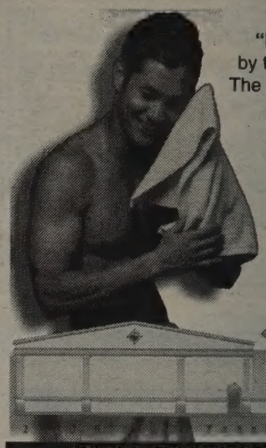

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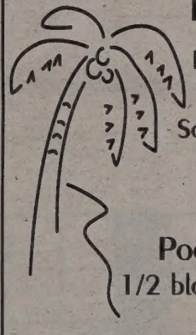
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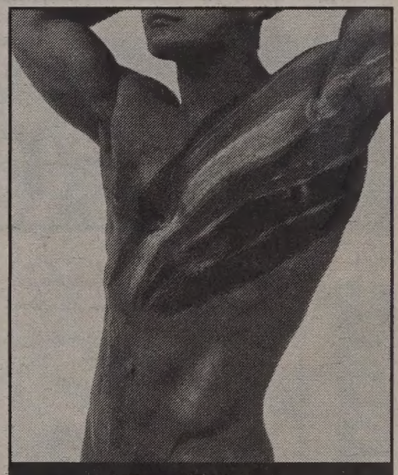
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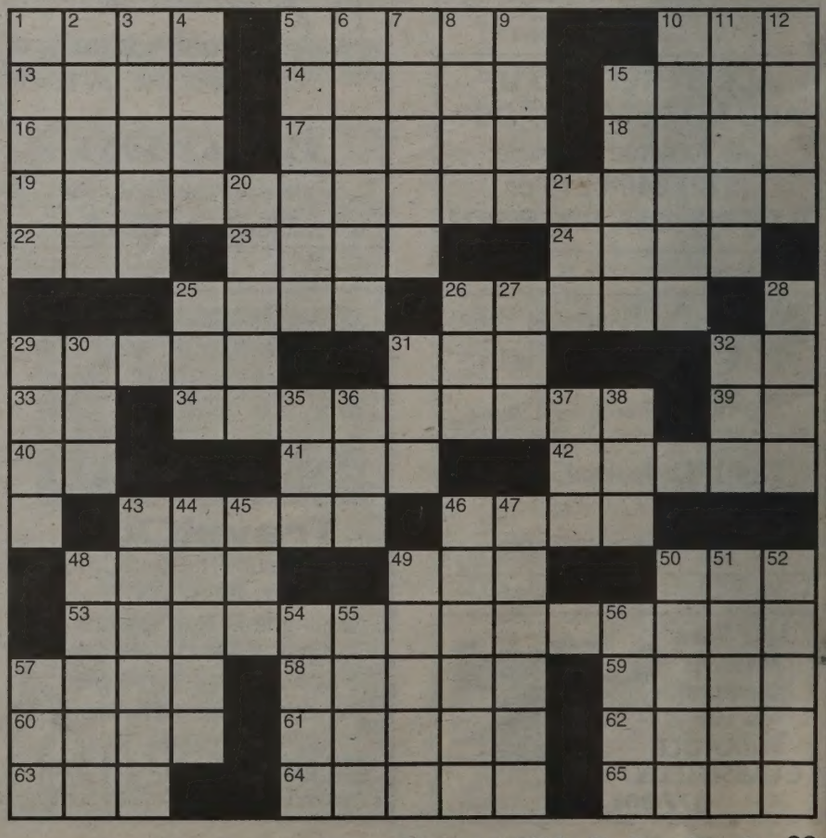
Across
1 Panthers or Flyers
5 Criminal
10 Pool player's need
13 ____ mortis
14 TX fort
15 Brush companion
16 Highly excited
17 Baseball's Garciaparra
18 Bum, or tramp
19 Co-star of 34A
22 7th Greek letter
23 Profit partner
24 Spike or tack
25 ____ -de-camp
26 Best of the best
29 Buckle
31 Inn offering
32 Exist
33 That man, there
34 New gay-themed movie
39 WA neighbor
40 Highly unstable radioactive element
41 Sum
42 In the city
43 S. African grasslands
46 Imitator
48 Angel's aura
49 Me, to Pierre
50 Donkey cousin
53 Co-star of 34A
57 Relating to near the ear
58 Connoisseurship
59 Burn remedy
60 "Command", to Shakespeare
61 Pond scum
62 King Abdul Aziz _____
63 Lyric poem
64 Yuletides
65 Former Clinton Agriculture Sec.

Down
1 Outline
2 VIII
3 Athenian marketplace
4 The three wise men
5 Disorder or upset
6 Children's classic book series
7 Tibetan priests
8 Arabian Peninsula monarchy
9 Gen Schwarzkopf, to his friends
10 Slang name for an unskilled Asian laborer
11 Australian flower
12 Very dark black
15 Deceiver
20 "...crept up and slipt away with here..." Led Zeppelin
21 Black cuckoo
25 "___ Lay Dying"; Faulkner
26 Wapiti
27 Hawaiian garland
28 Small slender gull
29 British fellow
30 ___ me call you sweetheart; Mary Higgins Clark
31 Also
32 Feather scarf
35 Possessed
36 Badges
37 Immediately payable
38 Hockey great; Bobby ___
43 Overnight bag
44 Chose
45 Cured salmon
46 Having to do with the Aorta
47 Offends
48 Despised
49 Ms.. Simpson
50 Book of maps
51 Basin for holy water
52 Sordid, or run down
54 The "terrible" czar
55 ICBM house
56 Alleviate
57 Expression of surprise



HOROSCOPE

www.txtriangle.com/horoscope

Aries - March 21 - April 20

You want to make improvements in your professional life this week. You have important goals and you want to meet them. Take your time when considering new endeavors. Something that seems to be a great idea or opportunity may not be the perfect choice. Use clear, hard logic when making decisions. A friend does something nice for you. An invitation to a special event is exciting.

Taurus - April 21 - May 21

You want to expand your mind this week. New experiences are very important to you now. With every encounter you receive an inspiration about the meaning of life. You are learning how other people live and, in doing so, you gain insight into your own methods of living. A class in something inspirational is a great idea. Study meditation, astrology or any area of metaphysics in depth.

Gemini - May 22 - June 21

You deal with money management this week. You wish to invest your money so that you can make more of what you already have, and you and a mate or business partner have to work together to come to an agreement about the right course of action to take. If you decide to accept a new job, perks will be very important. The right health plan or savings incentive can make a real difference.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22

You will be learning important life lessons regarding partnerships this week. You have many conflicting feelings about the people closest to you. It is time for you to learn what it takes to make a relationship work. Someone new may come into your life or if you have a long-standing relationship, you could each go through some beneficial changes that will help you grow together as a team.

Leo - July 23 - August 22

You think about goals in your work life this week. There are many opportunities available to you at this time, but the question is which ones are worth taking. Sometimes a great chance isn't all that wonderful and you have to be able to look deeply into the situations surrounding you in order to make sense of where you are professionally and where you want to be in the future.

Virgo - August 23 - September 23

You feel a surge in your love life this week. You have a lot of romantic inclinations and interactions now and, as a result, you are learning a lot about yourself and your relationship needs. You really want to find true love with a partner who will complete your destiny and allow you to express your inner self. This is the right idea where love is concerned. It is also important to express yourself creatively.

Libra - September 24 - October 23

You deal with personal and family issues this week. You need people around you and close to you, and you are usually willing to accommodate them because social contacts and family commitments are so important now. You are getting in better touch with your own automatic programming, and when people push your buttons you know how to handle it. Keep what you need and discard the rest!

Scorpio - October 24 - November 22

You are feeling extra social this week. You try to connect with other people. Your usual stay-at-home tendencies are in remission and you feel positively butterfly-ish! You manage to start a conversation with anyone and everyone you meet at the store, standing in line, at work and at parties. This is also a good time to develop your mind and social skills. Communication skills are very important. Express yourself.

Sagittarius - November 23 - December 21

You deal with financial issues this week. You are making more money than usual at this time, but, unfortunately, you have a tendency toward an easy-come, easy-go attitude. Faulty financial moves can create problems and leave you in trouble later on. So, try to use good, sound judgment. You are developing respect for the prosperity principles; money is not the most important thing, but we all need it.

Capricorn - December 22 - January 20

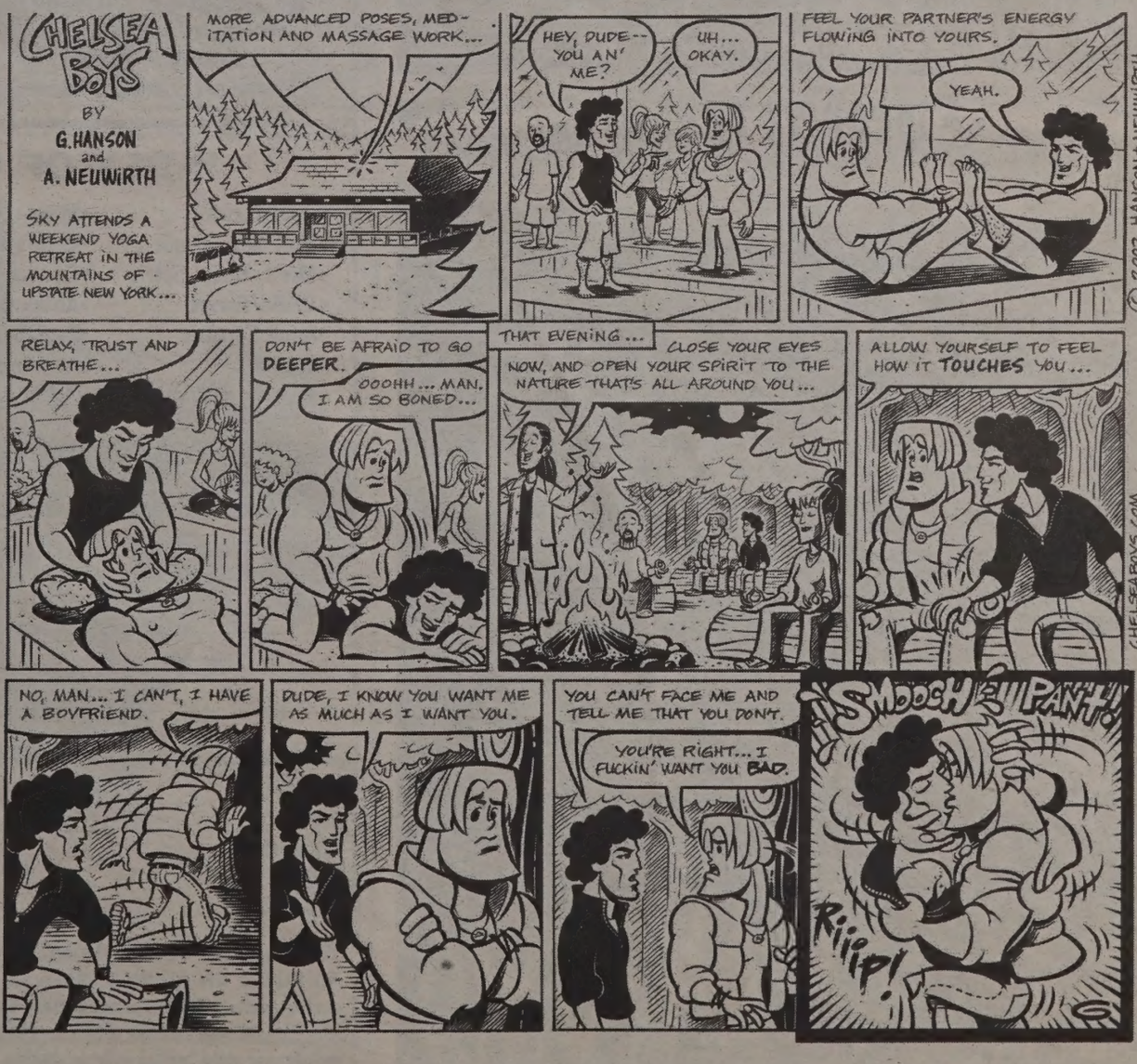
You feel that your natural energy has softened a bit this week. Often, you concentrate on work to the exclusion of everything else; now you see there is more to life, and you want to reach out and connect with the people around you. It is important for you to see new people and to understand the choices they make. Those types of interactions will help you change and grow as a person.

Aquarius - January 21 - February 19

You dream of a brave new tomorrow. You are thinking about plans for the future, either for yourself or for something larger of which you are a part. In the back of your mind are all these visions; you're almost in focus, but not quite. You are reaching deep inside yourself to find your own best future. Soon you will begin a new cycle of personal growth toward your personal best that you can be.

Pisces - February 20 - March 20

You focus on long-term goals for the future. You feel confident that you can make more of yourself than you ever before dreamt possible. You formulate a plan for the next several months. You are in touch with your ideals now and that helps you find what you want from life. You can enjoy yourself with a wide variety of social contacts. There are many innocent pleasures in life for you to experience.



Last Week's Solution

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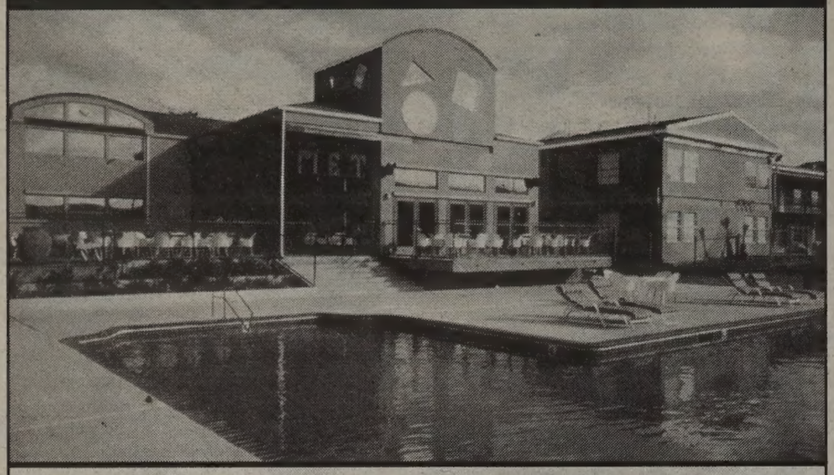

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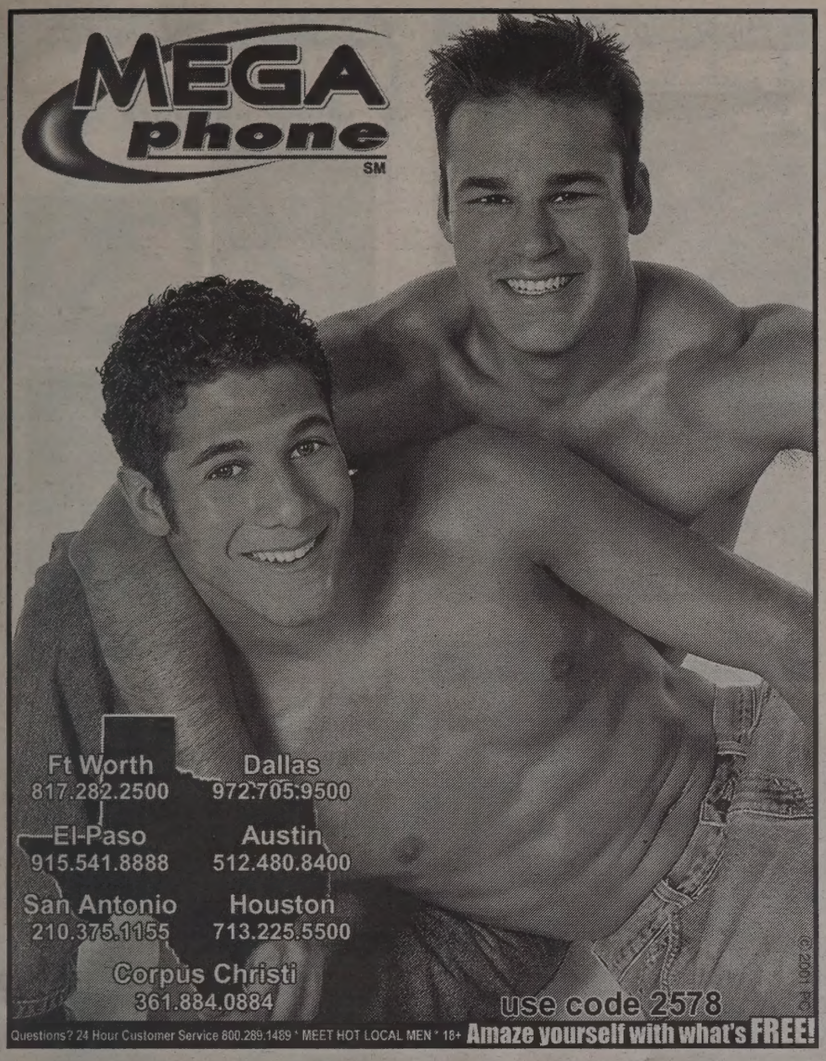
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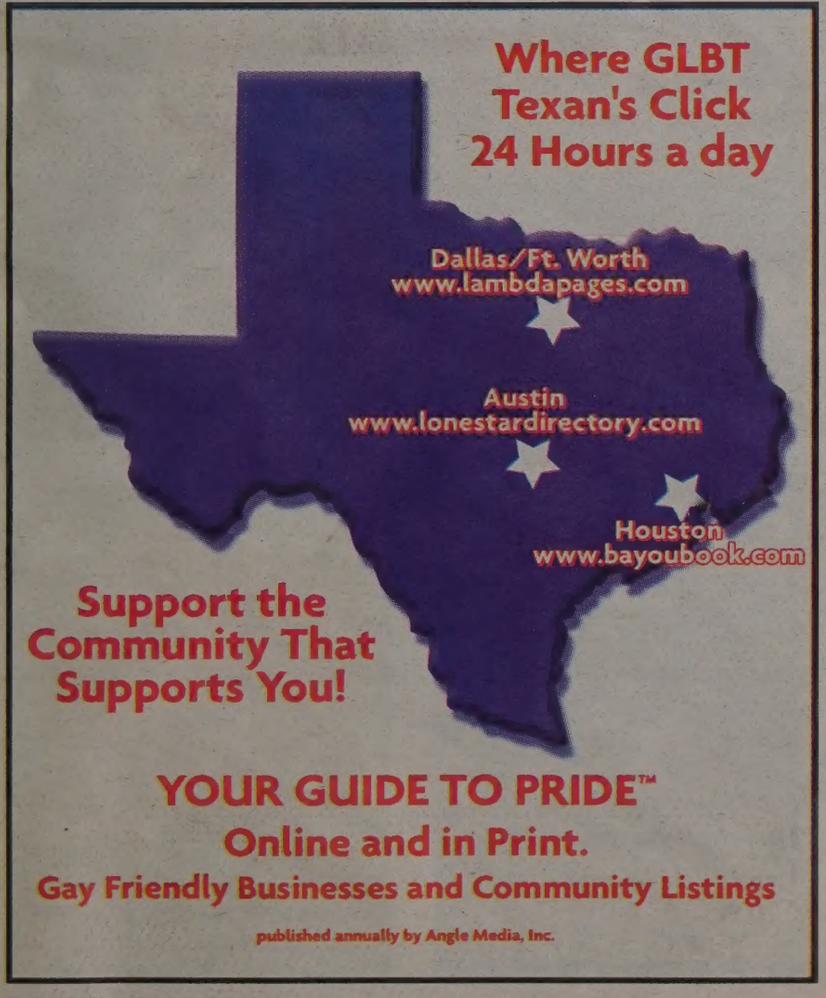
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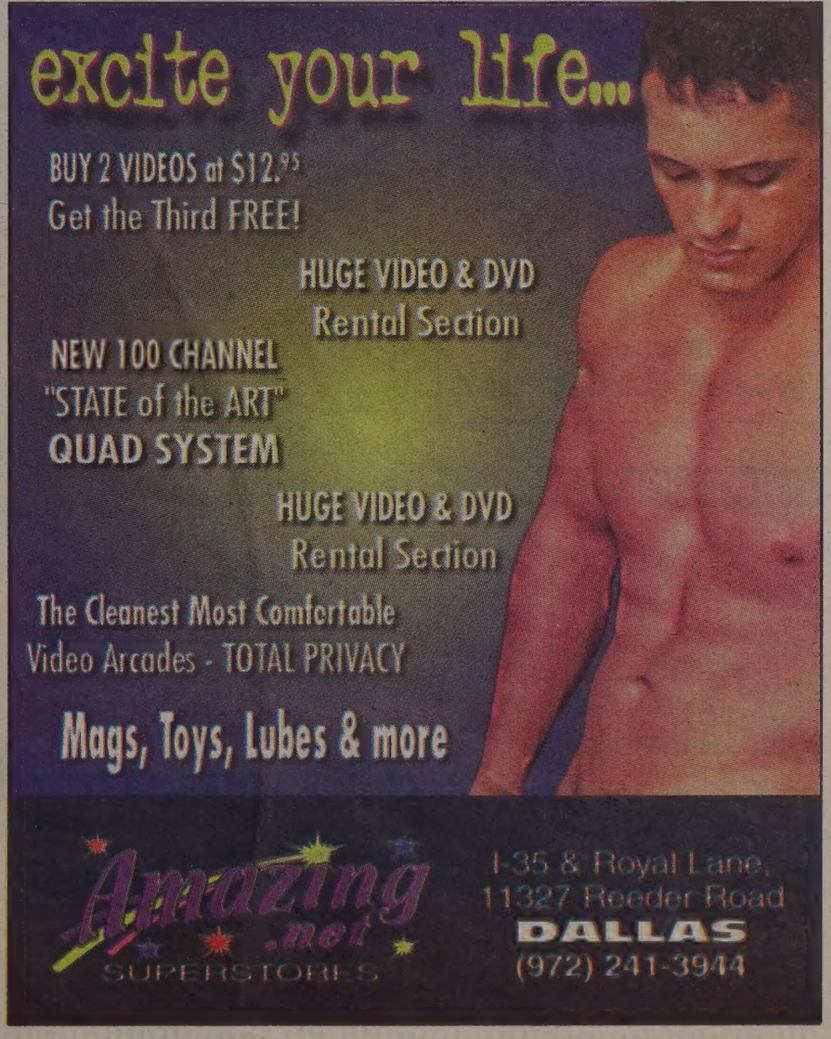
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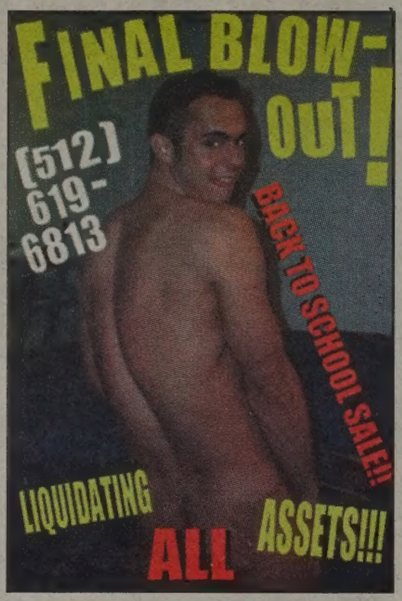

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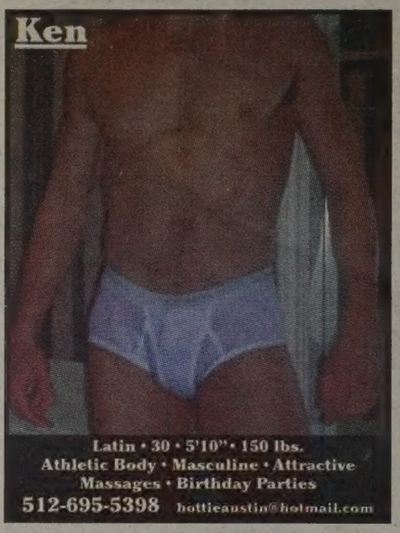

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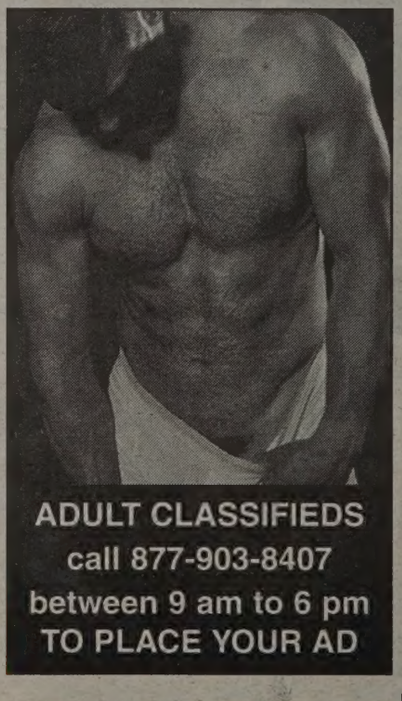

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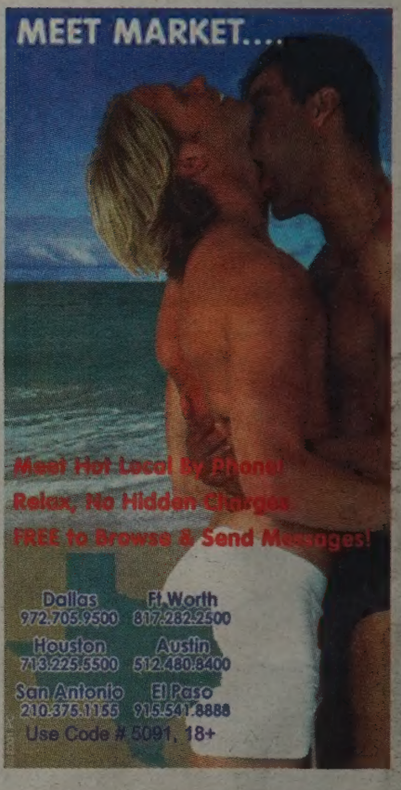

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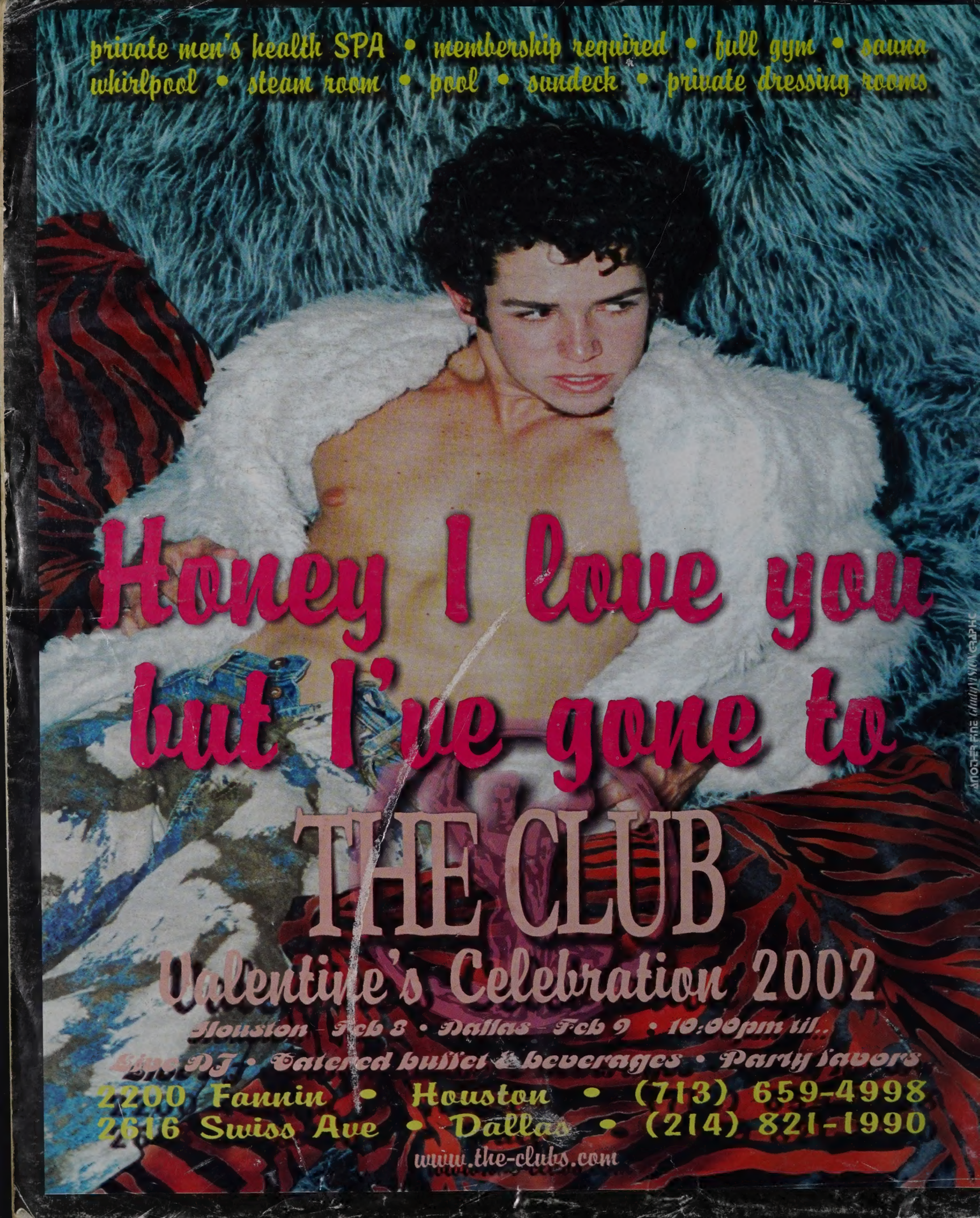
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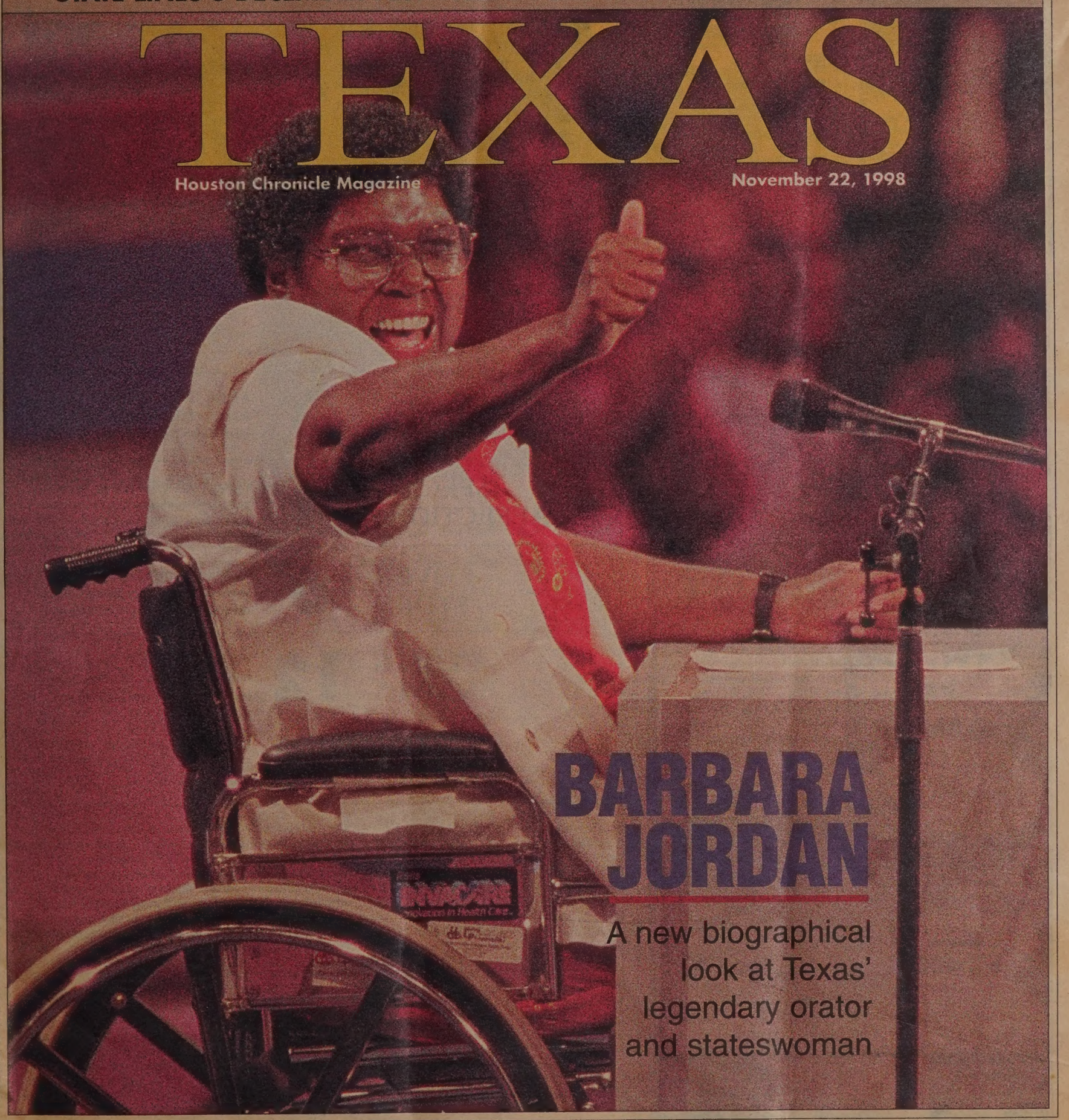

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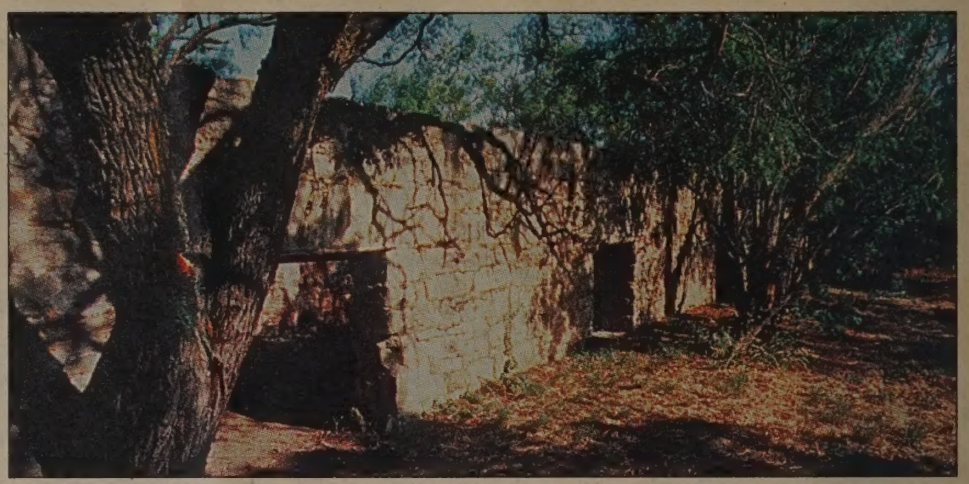

Ed Erwin

The limestone walls of the permanent commissary storehouse are still standing at a mid-19th-century Army outpost built at Phantom Hill near Abilene. See Close Escapes on Page 12.

STATE LINES **3** A father and his sons find a natural teacher of life's greatest lessons in a doe named Flop.

SPECIAL AFFECTIONS **4** Across Texas in December, festivals, parades and shopping events take on a special holiday glow.

COVER STORY **6** With her return to Texas after a career in Congress, Barbara Jordan's eloquent voice found a new forum.

CLOSES ESCAPES **12** Visitors to Phantom Hill near Abilene find the remnants of a 19th-century fort that was never meant to be.

DAVE BARRY **15** Dave determines that men's and women's notions of time differ — from here to eternity.

ON THE COVER

The late former U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan, in this photograph by the Chronicle's Dave Einsel, makes a televised appearance at the 1992 Democratic National Convention. For millions, the appearance broke a long period out of the public eye for Jordan, who left Congress in 1979, suffering multiple sclerosis, to begin teaching at the University of Texas in Austin. Excerpts from a new biography by Mary Beth Rogers tell of Jordan's years out of the spotlight.

TEXAS

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The way of deer and sons

By James Nash

Rolf Laub / Special to the Chronicle

The first time I saw the whitetail doe that my sons and I named Flop she was a spotted fawn following her dam. Through either accident or genetics — I would never know which — half of her left ear folded inward and downward. She was instantly recognizable, and through the summer I occasionally saw her in the pasture.

My sons were due their first hunting experience that fall. I thought Flop would help me teach them the difference between being a hunter and being just a killer; teach them nature's ways in a graphic manner rather than dry facts.

That fall we watched as Flop, still following her mother, though not as closely, entered the food plots. She stood at the edge of the brush watching intently, mirroring her mother. Her black nostrils drank in the messages that the wind bore. Her one good ear swiveled about to catch the faintest sound. Her large, luminous eyes searched for the slightest movement. A flirt of her tail signified she was satisfied with the situation, and she would enter.

When Flop became more familiar with the planted food, she ran ahead of her mother to be first at the feast. Flop was a typical adolescent.

I interpreted that lesson for my sons. If something seems too good to be true, in this case free and easy food, be very careful before taking advantage of it. Listen to experience. Sometimes old heads know something.

The following spring Flop began a new lesson for us. She had her own spotted fawn with her in the isolated half-acre of woods and underbrush she had chosen for her place. It was her home. Home, though, is not really the correct term. There is a Spanish word, *querencia*, which has no exact English translation. It means place-preference, where people or animals most prefer to be. Where they are most comfortable and at ease.

It did not matter how far afield Flop wandered in search of browse, or if feral dogs harried her; she eventually returned to her own half-acre. She defended her place against encroaching does. Flop rose on her hind legs and traded swift jabs with her sharp, black hooves. Suitably chastened, the interloper departed.

Once we watched Flop chase a prowling coyote that was seeking her hidden fawn. She struck at the fleeing yodel-dog with her front hooves like a good lightweight boxer. Twice she bowled him over.

Using Flop's example, I encouraged my sons to find their own place, their own *querencia*. Find the one place where they most preferred to be, stick close to it and defend it. Each has chosen his own special place now.

One of my sons harvested his first buck that same year, and Flop was indirectly responsible for another lesson. She was in estrus, and the heavy-horned eight-point buck threw all caution to the winds in his single-minded drive to procreate. Flop trotted by my son's stand, and the buck, nose to the ground, was on her heels. The lesson taught to my son was never to let your appetite for anything override common sense. So far, my boys have stayed clear of all addictions.

As the years passed, we learned more lessons from the deer that was now affectionately called Old Flop. One spring something took her fawn. Old Flop was distraught. We watched as she returned again and again to the spot where she had hidden her baby. Finding nothing, she circled and bleated softly, calling the missing one. Flop stood statue-still listening for an answer that never came. For three days she searched. Then it was over. Old Flop had done the best she could. Flop returned to her normal routine.

My sons learned that grief, no matter how sharp, deep or bitter, finally ends. Life must be taken up again. The past cannot be altered.

Cautious curiosity was another lesson Old Flop taught. Anything that altered her familiar world was cause for suspicion until proven harmless. We derived great amusement watching her inspect a feed sack that had fallen beside her favorite trail. Old Flop spotted the sack and stood motionless watching it. Her head bobbed up and down. She stamped the earth trying to make the strange object move. Flop whistle-snorted, the whitetail alarm call. Then she whirled and fled in arching leaps for 10 yards, apparently to find out if the strange object would chase her. Old Flop stopped. Then, mincing step by mincing step, she approached the strange sack until her working black nostrils were almost touching it. We could see her visibly relax. Old Flop went about her business and paid no more attention to the addition to her familiar path.

"When in doubt, check it out" was the lesson I interpreted for us. Flop told us by her actions that if a thing is new and strange, it is good to be sure it is harmless.

The years passed, and Old Flop bore sons and daughters. Some survived; some did not. One late winter day we were privileged to watch her drive away her own daughter. The young doe that had followed Old Flop since infancy appeared frightened and puzzled because her mother no longer allowed her to approach. Instead of comfort, the youngster received a sharp hoof in the ribs. Instead of nurturing, she was chased from the feeding area. If she tried to follow, Old Flop either whirled to chase her or ran away from the desperately pursuing little doe. Instinct told Old Flop that she would soon have a new infant to care for, and the preceding spring's child must go.

As this lesson sank in, my sons looked at me in a new light. We all knew the day would come for them to take their place in the adult world. I would be gentler than Old Flop, and the process would take longer, but the results would be the same: a new adult launched, sink or swim, into society.

Years rolled by, seasons came and went, and Old Flop was a constant. The casual remarks between my sons and me: Saw Old Flop today; Old Flop has twins; big buck was chasing Old Flop; Old Flop was at the salt trough.

She survived feral dogs, fences, speeding cars, hungry bobcats, ice storms, drought, disease and poachers. There was one thing she would not outwit or outrun.

I noticed Old Flop late of an August afternoon. She had no fawn following her that year, and though it had been a good year for forage, she was thin. Her face appeared longer that year, more sharply defined. Her shining, prominent black eyes were dull. Her back had a pronounced sway. I could count her ribs. Her walk was no longer mincing. She walked as if her feet hurt. Her normal red summer coat was going gray early, and the hair appeared rough and lusterless. All the visible signs said "old deer."

I knew Old Flop's teeth were worn out, and some were probably missing. I knew this was probably Old Flop's last year.

Walt Disney notwithstanding, nature is never kind. Nature is just. When grass eaters' teeth wear out, they die of starvation. Or, weakened, they fall easy prey to predators. The weak die that the strong may live, until it is the strong's turn to grow weak.

Sometime that winter Old Flop died, I would guess during the extended ice storm we had that February. The next spring there was no Old Flop.

One last lesson she taught us: When it is your time to go, go quietly. Try to leave good memories behind. My sons and I still remember Old Flop, and recall her and her antics in our conversations.

A different doe has taken residence in the patch of woods that Old Flop claimed. I have not seen a crumpled ear among the deer that range my pastures. But Old Flop lives in the memory of three men — one an elder now, and two young adults starting their own trails.

James Nash is a writer and a rancher in Leona.

DECEMBER FESTIVALS

Christmas nights and other delights

A million lights are promised at the Walkway of Lights, which will run through New Year's Day Marble Falls and Lake LBJ.

WALKWAY OF LIGHTS

When: through Jan. 1. **Where:** Marble Falls/Lake LBJ. **Contact:** 830-693-4449. **Admission:** free; donations accepted.

The seventh annual Walkway of Lights will feature more than 120 lighted sculptures, 1 million lights and a lighted tunnel.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL

When: Thursday-Jan. 1. **Where:** Blanco, Bulverde, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, Mason and Round Mountain. **Contact:** Regional headquarters, 830-997-8515. **Admission:** free.

Millions of lights will make miles of memories for those who follow the Hill Country's Regional Christmas Lighting Tour in 11 cities. Each town will have special events during holiday season; call headquarters for details.

OTTIE MUNDINE WINTER TEXAN FISH FRY

When: Dec. 1. **Where:** Fulton. **Contact:** 800-826-6441. **Admission:** free.

The town of Fulton and the Fulton Fire Department invite winter Texans to the annual fish or ham dinner; entertainment provided.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: Dec. 1. **Where:** Bay City. **Contact:** 800-806-8333. **Admission:** free.

This annual lighted Christmas parade begins at 7 p.m. in downtown Bay City.

WASSAILFEST '98

When: 6-9 p.m. Dec. 3. **Where:** New Braunfels. **Contact:** 830-608-2100. **Admission:** free.

Strolling guests sample wassails, and enjoy holiday music and performances.

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS STROLL

When: Dec. 4-5. **Where:** Brenham. **Contact:** 409-836-3695. **Admission:** free.

This annual event in historical downtown Brenham features dance troupes, live music, Santa, Bluebonnet Country's Christmas Market, an art show and spiced-tea tastings.

CHRISTMAS FLOTILLA

When: Dec. 4-5. **Where:** Lake Jacksonville. **Contact:** 800-376-2217. **Admission:** $2 adults, $1 students.

Bring your blankets and ride on barges to view decorated homes on Lake Jacksonville and enjoy Christmas carols around a bonfire, fireworks and a visit from Santa.

MOORE HOME CANDLELIGHT TOUR

When: Dec. 4-5. **Where:** Richmond. **Contact:** 281-342-6478. **Admission:** $4 adults, $2 ages 3-12.

The Moore Home will bask in the glow of candles and hurricane lamps as Fort Bend Museum docents present this year's theme, "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays."

NINE FLAGS FESTIVAL

When: Dec. 4-6. **Where:** Nacogdoches. **Contact:** 888-564-7351. **Admission:** free.

This event celebrates the town's American Indian heritage at the "Oldest Christmas in Texas" with Indian exhibits, demonstrations, dancing, storytelling, regalia judging, entertainment and food.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

When: Dec. 4-6. **Where:** Canyon. **Contact:** 806-651-2244. **Admission:** free.

The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum's 22nd annual event will feature the wonders of Christmas past in the late 1800s, including vintage toys, Christmas cards, an outdoor snow scene and hot cider.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY

When: Dec. 4-6. **Where:** Brookshire. **Contact:** 281-375-8100. **Admission:** free.

This eighth annual Christmas festival will feature a chili cookoff, live entertainment, arts and crafts, carnival rides, a silent auction and an appearance by Santa.

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS

When: Dec. 4-6, 11-13. **Where:** Waxahachie. **Contact:** 972-938-9617. **Admission:** $10 home tour.

The town will celebrate the season with a Candlelight Home Tour and Bethlehem Revisited featuring a live nativity scene, craftspeople and animals.

CHRISTMAS AT OLD FORT CONCHO

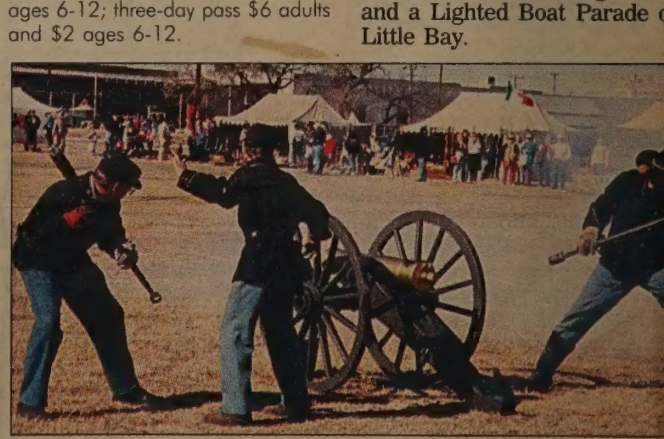
When: Dec. 4-6. **Where:** San Angelo. **Contact:** 915-481-2646. **Admission:** $4 adults, $2 seniors, $1 ages 6-12; three-day pass $6 adults and $2 ages 6-12.

Three days of Christmas spi
featuring a visit from Santa, p
riod music, cowboy poets ar
storytellers, a children's Chris
mas workshop and Little Co
pokes exploring Christmas fro
a cowboy's point of view.

COASTAL CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

When: Dec. 5. **Where:** Rockpo
Contact: 800-826-6441. **Admi**
sion: free.

Festivities include the 10th a
nual Lighting of the Children
Tree, Santa's workshop, pi
tures with Santa, a magic sho
and a Lighted Boat Parade
Little Bay.



The Winter Rendezvous Retreat ceremony is one of many even
planned for Christmas at Old Fort Concho.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 5. Where: Fayetteville. Contact: 409-378-4281. Admission: free.

Activities on the square will include pictures with Santa, entertainment, hayrides to view Christmas lights, and gingerbread and wassail.

19TH-CENTURY CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 5. Where: Washington-on-the-Brazos. Contact: 409-878-2461. Admission: $4 adults, $2 students for museum.

The Star of the Republic Museum and Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park celebrate an old-fashioned holiday with crafts, tales of Christmas past and candlelight tours of the historical town site. Tickets for museum admission plus daytime Independence Hall tour are $6 adults and $3 students; evening candlelight Independence Hall tour is $6 adults and $3 students, reservations required; stagecoach rides are $4

Fayetteville's Country Christmas offers holiday-light tours.

adults and $2 students.

CHRISTMAS STROLL

When: Dec. 5. Where: Georgetown. Contact: 512-930-3545. Admission: free.

Events begin with a Christmas Stroll on the Downtown Square, featuring Christmas carols, a parade, Santa Claus and the grand lighting ceremony of the courthouse.

DICKENS ON THE STRAND SILVER JUBILEE

When: Dec. 5-6. Where: Galveston. Contact: 409-765-7834. Admission: $8, free for ages 11 and younger.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, this event takes visitors back to an epic era in which Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim and other immortal Dickens characters come to life on the streets of Galveston. Admission is free to anyone in full Victorian costume.

LAS POSADAS PROCESSIONS

When: Dec. 6. Where: Goliad. Contact: 512-645-3752. Admission: free.

Christmas in Goliad means a traditional Mexican cultural event recalling Mary and Joseph's search for lodging. Also the same day is a re-enactment of a 19th-century Frontier Rendezvous.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

When: Dec. 9-12. Where: Sam

Continued on Page 14

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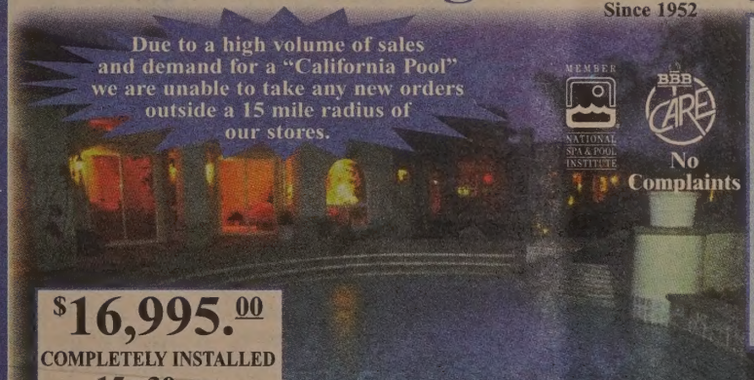

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BARBARA JORDAN

ON HER OWN TERMS

Betrayed by failing health, the late Houston congresswoman returned to Texas determined to keep her multiple sclerosis a secret in this excerpt from a new biography

By Mary Beth Rogers

The late Barbara Jordan, a product of Houston's Fifth Ward, the first black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first black woman from the South elected to Congress, retired from her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. At age 43 and suffering from multiple sclerosis, a condition she kept secret from all but a close circle of friends, she began a new career, teaching at the University of Texas in Austin. Mary Beth Rogers, who taught at UT's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs with Jordan and now is president of KLRU-TV in Austin, worked for two years on the biography Barbara Jordan: American Hero, *due the first week in December. In the following excerpt, Rogers looks at Jordan's life in 1979, just after she retired from political life. Jordan comes to terms with her illness, begins her teaching career and, after a period of withdrawal and renewal, re-enters the political world as a speaker and moral leader.*

Barbara Jordan had spent twelve years in the public eye. Now, she was out of it, or wanted to be. She felt she had done all that she was capable of doing as a public official. She was the most admired black woman in America, and she was still young – only forty-three years old. Yet in her mix of geniality and reserve, there was still an unreachable quality about her. Who really knew her? Was she all that she seemed? Was she *only* what she seemed?

The paradox about Barbara Jordan was that she both gave so much of herself to her public life, and yet held so much back from her public. And now she seemed to want to remove herself entirely from its grasp. In January, 1979, her desire for privacy pervaded every aspect of her life, as did an almost equal yearning for normalcy.

Why was Barbara Jordan so adamant that no one know the nature of her illness? Why, when she had once gloried in press attention, was she now so reticent about revealing anything remotely personal or private about her existence?

The obvious answer is that she did not consider her private life the public's business. But she also did not want to be pitied. So much of her pride – the essence of her dignity – was wrapped up in her independence and strength. She was the "miracle" woman, the young black woman who had overcome virtually every obstacle to rise to the top. Multiple sclerosis threatened both her independence and her strength, the qualities she valued most in herself. If she revealed the nature of her illness, she knew that people would watch her and wait for the signs of physical demise and dependency.

Instead Barbara insisted on absolute privacy. This privacy protected her vulnerable beliefs and feelings, her inwardness, and most importantly, her lifelong sense of being different from everyone else.

Yet Barbara also seemed to realize that by keeping it a private matter, she might be able to diminish the importance of multiple sclerosis in her life. This did not seem to be the kind of classic denial that many seriously ill patients sometimes exhibit, nor was it a pathological refusal to deal with its reality. Barbara *was* willing to come to terms with multiple sclerosis. But it would be on *her* terms. She intended to do everything she could to minimize its impact, and take whatever treatments or medications that might be available to help her cope with it. But she would not let it obscure her focus of what was important in her life.

Barbara Jordan almost disappeared from public view from mid-1979 to 1982. Although she made occasional speeches and continued to show up on magazine lists of "most admired women," – including a People Magazine survey in March, 1980 which revealed she was the nation's top choice for the first woman president – she was serious about withdrawing from public life. In October 1979, when Texas Democrats put together a list of prominent Texans who would be supporting President Carter's re-election, more than a year in advance of the election, Jordan would not allow her name to be used. She also made no endorsements or public appearances on behalf of the Democrats in the 1980 elections.

From the beginning of 1979 when she began her new career as a college professor, Jordan's primary focus was on work and health. As usual, she applied all of her attention and drive to her immediate tasks, and she took her teaching responsibilities extremely seriously.

Barbara had to put together two classes for her first semester: one on "intergovernmental relations" and the other on political values and ethics. She called the first "a practical course" because it dealt with the inner workings of government at many levels and she wanted her students to understand "some of the frustrations that will be theirs as 'the feds become a big daddy for them.'" But Jordan's real interest centered on her course on ethics. She had always believed there were "no clear cut answers to ethical questions" in politics and she wanted to create in her students an "ethical sensitivity" to their own as well as others' behavior.

Barbara's student aide, DeAnn Friedholm, had collected reading lists on ethics from college professors all over the country to help Jordan organize her course. And Barbara plunged into the reading with gusto. She, who had never taken the time to be reflective or introspective, now became both. Barbara began to interpret and give meaning to her own experiences in a different way, and it marked the beginning of a transformation for her.

"I consider myself very fortunate that I can read and learn and retrain," she said. "That's going to serve me well as it has in the past. I want to be a scholar. I want to be able to write the way some of the things I read are written. That will take time."

She outlined the *Federalist Papers* as if she were a college student. She pored over Aristotle's *Ethics*, de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, Walter Lippman's *The Public Philosophy*, Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, and John Rawls' *A Theory of Justice*. Reading John Rawls helped refine her own deeply held views of truth and justice. "Our system seeks to guarantee that each citizen gets justice and that justice is denied no one. What is justice? Justice is fairness. It is the first virtue of all human institutions. It is an endemic value in our democracy," she came to see. Sissela Bok's book *Lying – Moral Choice in Public and Private Life* had just been published, and Barbara incorporated its insights into her thinking. She also reread a book that had influenced her thinking much earlier, Reinhold Neibuhr's *Moral Men and Immoral Society*.

From BARBARA JORDAN: AMERICAN HERO by Mary Beth Rogers. Copyright © 1998 by Mary Beth Rogers. To be published by Bantam Books, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.

Betty Tichich / Chronicle

Barbara Jordan speaks at a Forum Club luncheon in Houston in 1991 about President Bush's nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Once Barbara began her intellectual journey, it seemed to take her back to her deepest religious beliefs. She sought out the writings of Harold Thurman, the Boston University preacher and theologian who had shaped her religious thinking some twenty years earlier. Thurman had written extensively about the meaning of love, and had repeatedly used the phrase "the ethic of love," which Barbara began to incorporate into many of her own speeches. For Thurman, there were "no types or stereotypes, not classes and no masses . . . in the presence of love." In religious terms, this sentiment was identical to Barbara's belief in the need for universality in the law. In the presence of either love or justice there could be no discrimination based on skin color, gender, economic condition or any other artificial barrier that separated people.

Barbara had always been enamored by the notion of "the people." It was a unique American concept, she felt. And she called on her favorite Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, to provide some depth to her belief. "Abraham Lincoln gave us a trilogy we use as a definition of democracy," she said. But my problem with Abraham Lincoln's trilogy is that we put emphasis on the wrong words. The trilogy is: *of, by, for* the people. When we recite the trilogy we say *of* the people, *by* the people, *for* the people. You know how we should recite that? We should say of the PEOPLE, by the PEOPLE, for the PEOPLE. This is a government which has as its base, people. This is a republic which says: here the people will govern.

She was proud of her new intellectual attainments, as well as her rediscovered idealism. Jordan told friends that when she completed a class, she was so high she was "on the ceiling, and all I want to do is talk about what went on in class and how my students responded."

"She asked our opinions about atomic bombs, balanced budgets, equal opportunity and other public issues," one student said. "She was no academic tyrant out to embarrass her students or, worse yet, force her opinions on them. Rigorous, yes. Demanding, absolutely. In fact, she seemed harder on women and black students, as though she were trying to toughen them. But her goal seemed to be to inspire debate, not obedience or conformity."

Another student warned that "a conscientious student would never consider walking into her class unprepared. If you have to go without food, go without sleep, you go without in any way you can, but you don't take a gamble that this particular time you will be overlooked."

One young man summed up Jordan's classroom impact, "I've never met a person who believed so strongly that we can actually change the world, and that gives me confidence that we really can."

The effect of Jordan's readings and class discussions with intelligent graduate students also helped her to clarify her own beliefs about ethics and public service. She counseled her students, most of whom would have careers in some form of public service, that they had to assume greater responsibility than individuals in other careers. "Are we holding the public servant to a different standard than those who are in business or marketing or sales or manufacturing?" she asked. She insisted that the answer was, "Yes, a different standard, a tougher standard, a higher standard. Is it fair? Of course it is fair. A public trust must be handled and must be managed by those who are motivated by the public interest. Those who hold the public trust must adhere to the highest ethical standards there are. The job requires it, and the public

must demand it." To Jordan, it was simple: If you saw government service as a noble calling, then ethics were important. If you didn't, then they were not.

Throughout her lectures, personal counseling, heavy reading and ponderous thinking, Barbara managed to keep her sense of humor, as did the students who fought over admission to her classes. In one class, a West Texas cowboy who happened to draw a lucky lottery number to be admitted to her seminar did not feel so lucky on his first day in class when Jordan's stern gaze fixed him in her sights and her booming voice asked him: "What does freedom mean to you?" He squirmed for what seemed like an interminable moment before he blurted out, "I guess freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." Other members of the class gasped in horror as they recognized the lyrics from Janis Joplin's soulful rendition of *Me and Bobby Magee*. Jordan kept her frown as long as she could and then broke into gales of laughter. "That's not too bad," she said. "Not too bad."

For Barbara Jordan, the adjustment to life away from Washington was "not too bad" either.

Admired for her eloquence and integrity, Jordan acknowledges an ovation during her appearance at the Democratic Nationc

Jordan's withdrawal from Washington and politics was a withdrawal from public life – not from life itself. She did make a few public appearances, but they were limited to showing support for causes she considered worthy. She appeared on the platform when the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa., honored Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Mamie Eisenhower and Hubert Humphrey in 1979. In 1980, she joined with television producer Norman Lear and the Reverend William Howard, president of the National Council of Churches, to become a co-founder of People for the American Way. And in 1981, she went back to Washington to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on still another extension of the Voting Rights Act. She told the committee that the 1975 Voting Rights Act had "changed politics in Texas. . . . You can measure it in the number of newly registered minority voters – about four-hundred twenty thousand . . . and there is a twenty-two percent increase in minority office holders." But public appearances were rare. There were other things she wanted to do.

Early in 1979, Barbara took advantage of several offers to join the corporate world. While part of her interest came from wanting to learn something new, Jordan also needed a new source of income. She had taken a pay cut to teach at the LBJ School where her base salary for her first year was forty five thousand dollars, ten thousand dollars less than her congressional salary, and she wanted to supplement her teaching income. Corporate board work seemed to provide the way because directors received handsome fees for attending meetings and frequently got stock options in their companies as a reward for service. In 1979, corporate directorships represented the business elite of the nation. But there were few women who served on boards unless they were part of families which held stock ownership in the firms, and there were virtually no African Americans. Barbara Jordan would be one of the first. Ironically, it was Texan Republican George Bush who opened the door for Barbara's first corporate board post.

Bush had been asked to serve on the board of the Mead Corporation, one of the nation's largest suppliers of paper products. Mead owned two paper mills and a printing plant in Dayton, Ohio, and wanted to add a Texan to its board. But Bush declined because he was getting ready to make a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1980, and he suggested Barbara Jordan as a substitute. Mead's chairman James W. McSwiney and General Counsel Jerry Rapp were so taken with the idea that they flew to Washington to invite Jordan to be on the board while she was still in Congress. She was interested, but decided she would not go on the board until her congressional term was over. Mead waited and officially elected her as a director in April, 1979.

> To Barbara Jordan, it was simple: If you saw government service as a noble calling, then ethics were important. If you didn't, then they were not.

It was Jordan's entry onto her second board, Texas Commerce Bancshares, that was the major coup for her, however. Texas Commerce Bank was the flagship financial institution of establishment Houston. Its board members were white, wealthy, and by 1979, mostly Republican, although Lady Bird Johnson was also on the board. To be invited to serve on the holding company board of Texas Commerce was to be invited "inside" the economic power of Texas. And for Texas Commerce's CEO Ben Love, who had gotten to know Jordan when she was in the Texas Senate, it was a pioneering venture. When she joined the board in 1979, Barbara became the first African American to serve on a major bank board in the nation.

"After she decided to leave Congress, but before she actually left, I invited her to be on the board," Love said. "But be-

D. Fahleson / Chronicle

onvention in 1992. Letting down a self-imposed privacy barrier, she had rolled to the podium in her wheelchair.

fore I talked to her, I wanted to be sure there was no controversy." First on his list to speak with was Howard Creekmore, head of the Houston Endowment, one of the nation's largest philanthropic foundations. "When I told Howard I wanted to put Barbara on our board, he said to me, 'Well, if you don't do it, it's possible one of the other banks might. Then, if you want a black person, there is no second black, no one is equivalent to Barbara Jordan. So you better do it now.'" Creekmore made calls to other directors, some of whom worried that they would be criticized in their country clubs for adding a black person to their inner circle. "But on the whole, they thought it was worthwhile," Love remembered.

More corporate board offers came her way, and later in the year, she joined the board of the Washington Star, the newspaper recently acquired by Houston banker and publisher Joe Allbritton. "She loved those boards," a close friend remembered. "You'd think she personally owned those companies. They would fax her mounds of material and she would read everything. She would talk about buying and selling this or that. She just loved it."

"Barbara was subjected to tokenism a bit on those boards," Democratic consultant George Christian of Austin believed. "But that didn't seem to bother her. She liked those board fees. But she wasn't just a passive member. She would really get involved. And I think she got a solemn kick out of the way a lot of white people dealt with her. She was so sought after. They just pawed at her."

Teaching and her new board work took up most of Jordan's time in 1979. But her physical condition continued to worsen. She had been taking the corticosteroid drug prednisone off and on since 1973. It had triggered infections of her sweat glands, which caused debilitating swelling and terrible skin irritations and rashes. She was also taking medication to control a tendency toward diabetes. In addition, she had a series of gallstone attacks, and had to have her gall bladder removed. Multiple sclerosis had so weakened the muscles that controlled movement of her right eye that her vision was now impaired. But the biggest problem was that her legs had become so weak that her ability to walk was precarious. As a result, she had several falls, one time breaking her collarbone, and another time injuring her wrist. By 1980, her balance was so unstable that her cane was no longer sufficient to help her get around. She swallowed her pride and began to use a walker.

There were times when she even succumbed to using a wheelchair. Although she still had some mobility, the wheelchair made it easier and faster to get from here to there. And for Barbara, impatience to move quickly finally beat out her pride at being pushed in a wheelchair. Houston attorney Ken Wall, who was one of Jordan's students at the time, drove her home from class every week. "Although she never mentioned it and would change the subject if someone else mentioned it, Barbara Jordan didn't move around very well anymore. She needed assistance in standing and sitting, in getting in and out of a car. Yet during all the excursions we made together, not only from school to her home, but to various speaking engagements and dinner parties, I never once heard her utter a complaint or express any irritation or frustration with me or her conditions. And no matter how much trouble she and I had getting her into and out of a host's home or private plane, and most of these transactions were not flawless, I could always count on two things: her determination and her appreciation."

Barbara's lack of complaints did not mean acceptance of her condition. Her frustrations were enormous, and she decided she would try anything to halt the progression of the disease. In 1980, she began a series of experimental treatments. And there were plenty to try. Because the causes and cure for multiple sclerosis were unknown, every year or so there seemed to be a new treatment of choice. Many of them were fads: snake venom, blood transfusions, even vertebral artery surgery; others were untried remedies that were clearly promoted for profit.

One experimental treatment might have actually slowed the MS progression, but it was ultimately more damaging to her system. For years, she took the powerful synthetic drug Cytoxan, a last-stage chemotherapy drug for cancer patients. Cytoxan was also believed to slow the progression of multiple sclerosis and to reduce the relapse rate. But it greatly increased the risk of cancer and it was profoundly damaging to the bladder. Few physicians would prescribe it. Because it was a global immunosuppressant drug – which suppressed not just one target but the entire immune system – it was the equivalent of dropping a bomb on the body. But Barbara was willing to take that chance. And a neurologist prescribed it for her.

Within a short time, Barbara began to experience repeated urinary tract infections which virtually destroyed her bladder and eventually she had to have an indwelling catheter. When that happened, she had to have regular help changing the tubes and bags and a succession of therapists and "helpers" became part of her daily routine. She also needed the regular attention of an Austin physician, as well as her Houston neurologist.

In Austin, Dr. Rambie Briggs' gentlemanly manner and attention to detail endeared him to Barbara quite early in their relationship. And he earned her trust by respecting her wishes for total

confidentiality. He was so careful that he did not keep Barbara's medical records in his office files with those of other patients. Nor did he allow his office assistants to transcribe his notes on her care. After each visit, Briggs made handwritten notations about Barbara's condition for her medical records and then took them home with him so no one else would ever see them.

"I guess I was in awe of her. . . . At some point she just decided I would be her family practitioner, but she was still going to Houston for her neurological work. I basically took care of everything else – urinary tract infections and those skin infections. It took us a while, but we got to be close."

By 1980, Barbara was using a wheelchair more frequently, although she still had some limited mobility. "I just resigned myself to moving around without the expenditure of so much energy by getting in a wheelchair and letting people push me around," she said. But Nancy Earl, who was co-owner of a home on Austin's Onion Creek with Barbara, had not signed on to be her nursemaid. She was not going to push Barbara all over their house. So, she bought a motorized scooter/wheelchair which Barbara used at home. Nancy rearranged the furniture so Barbara wouldn't bump into things as she buzzed around. The scooter had a basket in front where Barbara could keep her books and cigarettes, or a drink. And she still liked her Cutty Sark in the late afternoons. Many days, Barbara would sit in her scooter on the back patio overlooking the wide expanse of lawn. She would read, or simply stare off into the trees bordering the creek bank, or just look up at the sky. The vista seemed to fill her up, and give her energy and peace. So did just being at home.

Barbara insisted on regular rituals which provided a framework for her days. In the morning, she took a swim in the pool on the east side of the house. Sometimes she would put an Aretha Franklin tape on the stereo (and) belt out "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" in her best voice as she made her way with her walker to the pool. If she left the house to teach or do anything else in Austin, she always wanted to be home by 5:30 p.m. to watch the network news show, followed by local newscasts and *The McNeil-Lehrer Report* on PBS. During the evenings, she would watch television, or a movie on video, or read, and be in bed by 11 p.m. Once she was in bed, she had to have all of her night necessities around her – a glass of water, reading material, the television remote control, paper and pens, and her Sony Walkman and music tapes, which she would listen to as she drifted off to sleep. Sometimes Nancy would put snacks by Barbara's bed so she would have something to eat in the morning before her therapists arrived to help her begin the morning regime. Barbara had a good relationship with most of the young men and women who over the years became her "helpers," and who saw her at her greatest degree of physical vulnerability. Once again, her ability to compartmentalize her life seemed to allow her to preserve her internal pride and privacy, while somehow disassociating her "core being" from her body, which needed the assistance of others to function.

Facing Barbara's bed was a fieldstone fireplace, with a built-in bookshelf on one side, crowded with her favorite books and mementos. Here she kept the biographies she read of famous Americans: Adlai Stevenson, Ulysses S. Grant, John Marshall, Judge Louis Brandeis, and later she added Taylor Branch's epic work on Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement, *Parting the Waters*. And of course, she had Lyndon Johnson's book about his presidency, *The Vantage Point*. Johnson had given Barbara the fourth imprint of the book, with the first three going to his wife and two daughters, to whom he had dedicated his book. His inscription to Barbara read, "For another first lady, with affection and deep admiration." A. Philip Randolph had also inscribed a biography of his life for Barbara, telling her he appreciated "all you have done and will be in the struggle for the liberation of all people."

When Barbara began to use her wheelchair more frequently, her bathroom had to be remodeled. That and other adjustments made the serenity of her surroundings possible, and Barbara was content to spend much of her time in the rambling stone house. So self-contained had she become, that she didn't seem to need the company of others. But there were certain friends she was always glad to see.

Attorney Stan McClelland was at the top of her list. Always polite, yet witty and irreverent on occasion, Stan often imitated Barbara's booming voice and could make her laugh – even at herself. He would tease Barbara by using phrases from her famous 1976 Democratic keynote address, pointing out how "different" and "special" she had become. Sometimes Barbara responded with a parody of herself: "I, Barbara Jordan, different and special as I am, want the first slice of roast beef." And they would all take turns making up silly things for the "different and special" Barbara to do. Stan was devoted to Barbara, and after he became a high-ranking executive with Valero Energy Corporation, a natural gas exploration and development firm headquartered in San Antonio, he frequently made Valero's airplane available to Barbara to assist in the logistics of her travels. And he was available to travel with her anytime she needed an escort, or even just someone to push her wheelchair. Barbara once told a friend that Stan was probably the only man she ever knew whom she could have married because he was smart, funny and rich, and he always knew just what to do and how to do it.

Austin American-Statesman

Recovering in an Austin hospital after being found face down in her swimming pool in 1988, Jordan gives the University of Texas' "Hook 'em, Horns" salute.

Barbara trusted Stan and Nancy, and her LBJ School secretary Sharon Tutchings, who for the last nine years of her life protected Barbara from anyone who attempted to intrude on her time or life. Most of the people Barbara did see regularly were people whose demeanor matched her own: they were polite, reserved, thoroughly mannered and always appropriate men and women who did not expect or demand any intimacy not offered by Barbara. And they could always be counted on to be discreet about revealing their friendship with her. Barbara stayed close to Azie Taylor Morton over the years, and once Morton moved back to Austin from Washington where she had been the U.S. Treasurer under President Jimmy Carter, they saw each other frequently. Barbara's neighbors Billye Brown and Betty Thomas were regular visitors, as was her physician Rambie Briggs. Two students Barbara taught during her first year as a professor remained friends: DeAnn Friedholm and Susan Rieff, who would on occasion bring pizza and beer to Barbara's on Friday nights and sometimes watch movies with her. Barbara liked to go to Elspeth and Walt Rostow's dinner parties, where the conversation was always topical and witty. She also spent long hours in philosophical discussions with University of Texas law professor Philip Bobbitt, who was a constitutional scholar and a nephew of Lyndon Johnson. And Barbara would always be happy to do anything President Johnson's widow, Lady Bird, asked of her: cut a ribbon, make a speech or come to dinner.

Barbara did get out on a regular basis to attend the women's basketball games at the University of Texas. "Once I attended my first game, I was hooked," she said. Barbara became such a "fixture" at the games that she sat on the sidelines with the team and was named "honorary" coach. After Barbara had been in Austin a few years, she began to open her home several times a year for large parties. She usually invited the women's basketball team and boosters, and at least once a year she entertained her students at the LBJ School. She had Nancy revive the tradition of Fourth of July parties they had started when the Onion Creek home was built. Sometimes Barbara even sang, to the delight of her guests. Although the multiple sclerosis had weakened her hands so she could no longer play the guitar, it had not affected her voice, which could still belt out *Money Honey*, *Saint James Infirmary*, or *Amazing Grace*.

When Barbara had settled into her Austin life, she talked to her sisters Rose Mary and Bennie every week and saw them frequently. But shortly after Barbara left Congress, her mother Arlyne had begun a rather rapid descent into Alzheimer's disease. Bennie and Rose Mary took turns caring for her in their homes in Houston. Although Arlyne was barely aware of her presence, Barbara began the practice of spending the Christmas holidays in Houston with her mother and sisters, and her aunt Mammie and Uncle Wilmer Lee. With a group of friends she felt she could trust, and with whom she was comfortable, and with her enjoyment of teaching and the corporate board work, Barbara gradually began to adjust to her new life. She even came to count its blessings.

Jerry Rapp, who was the General Counsel for the Mead Corporation and

who had become part of Barbara's small circle of friends, made arrangements for Barbara to get away from Austin's summer heat and humidity, and stay in the Durango, Colorado, home of his close friend and Democratic Party activist, Sam Mannes. Mannes' wife Jackie had multiple sclerosis, and they were both active in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The home was fully equipped for a wheelchair patient because Mrs. Mannes no longer had the muscle capability to hold herself erect and had to use a reclining wheelchair that could support her upper body. The trip was an eye-opener for Barbara. For the first time, she realized just how disabled she might become, and it seemed to reinforce her natural instinct to focus entirely on the present. When she got back to Austin, she told her secretary, Sharon Tutchings, "I'm so lucky. You should see what Mrs. Mannes has to endure." Barbara did feel lucky. She could move, she could think, she could work, she could travel, and for the first time in her life she had enough money to do anything she wanted. And she was beginning to want to do more. "I discovered that my physical impairment did not diminish my thinking or the quality of my mind. And it did not impact my capacity to talk."

The wheelchair and the catheter, plus the regular assistance of physical therapists, liberated rather than confined Barbara. Without the recurring bladder infections, and without having to struggle to take each step, her energy seemed to return. Barbara taught on Monday and Tuesday and had the remainder of the week free. She would fly to Houston once a month for her Texas Commerce Bank board meetings, and Mead would send its corporate jet to Austin to take her to Dayton for its monthly meetings. Little by little, she began taking on more speaking engagements, and she joined the board of the Public Broadcasting System. Also in 1982, for the first time since she had left Congress, Jordan spoke out publicly on a political issue. She blasted President Ronald Reagan at the annual "Lyndon B. Johnson Lecture" at Johnson's *alma mater*, Southwest Texas State University. First, she asserted that Reagan's economic policies had wreaked havoc on the lives of millions of Americans. Then, she charged that Reagan had failed to uphold the duties of his office and that his hostility to government was just plain wrong.

There are some things that government must do. The reciprocal duties between the people and their government make ridiculous, meaningless and empty such a slogan as 'Get government off our backs,' because government has some work to do for us. . . .

When a president faithfully executes his office, he does not pursue economic policies which are so strange and different that no known economic theory applies and a new name has to be developed to label it — Reaganomics.

Jordan was perhaps hardest on Reagan on the issue of race.

We black people know that whenever Republicans have been in power we don't fare terribly well. . . . We have not lost faith in this country . . . because what you probably don't know is that black people can stand a great degree of suffering because black people always have. A lesser people — I mean people of weaker constitution and fortitude — would have given up on this country long ago. But we didn't. We are going to force this country to live up to what it is supposed to be about or we'll die in the attempt.

Houston Post / Chronicle files

Jordan is greeted by longtime admirers after a 1990 appearance at Houston's Kashmere Multi-Purpose Center in Ann Richards' gubernatorial campaign.

Jordan concluded by saying that Lyndon Johnson was "the last president I had. I am still looking for another."

This speech marked the re-emergence of Barbara Jordan as a political figure. But it was a new Barbara Jordan. Humbled by her illness, strengthened by her solitude, unencumbered by her political ambition, and reinvigorated by her reading and reflection, Barbara Jordan, the woman, was stronger than ever.

By 1982, the public began to get regular glimpses of Barbara Jordan again. She had put back on some of the weight she had lost earlier, and she let her hair go natural, cutting it very short and letting it frame her face in tight little ringlets. She was a woman thoroughly at ease with herself who had adjusted to her limitations and found peace in her new life. Her ready smile reappeared. Her gaze was less forbidding and her humor less restrained.

By 1984, she had allowed herself to be drawn back into political campaign orbit. During the Democratic primary contests, she had presided over a presidential candidates' forum in New York that featured the major Democratic contenders: Senators Gary Hart, John Glenn, Alan Cranston, Governor Ruben Askew, and Vice President Walter Mondale. Although she did not attend the Democratic Party convention that nominated Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, she enthusiastically supported the ticket. She went to New Jersey to campaign for the re-election of Senator Bill Bradley, and she helped Texas Democratic nominee Lloyd Doggett in his unsuccessful effort to unseat Senator Phil Gramm. After the election, Congressional leaders invited her to Washington to be the keynote speaker for the National Prayer Breakfast, where President Reagan, fresh from his re-election victory, would also be speaking.

The event drew more than three thousand people from the ranks of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, ambassadorial and other representatives from one hundred nations and people from every state in the union. To them, she gave a preview of her new, more thoughtful self. She talked about the soul and the innate nature of man. And she probed theological questions probably never addressed before in a national prayer breakfast.

Speeches like this earned Jordan the "Best Living Orator" award in 1984, presented by the National Platform Association, an organization of professional speakers. Veteran political observer Theodore H. White described Jordan's oratory as "a flow of Churchillian eloquence, or resonance, boom and grip so compelling as to make one forget to take notes." Syndicated newspaper columnist Sandy Grady carried the Churchill analogy even further, believing Jordan's power as a speaker was "as though Winston Churchill had been reincarnated as a black woman from Texas." But had Barbara Jordan become *only* an orator? And did that fully explain the significance of her appeal or impact on those who heard her?

If Barbara's oratory was only an "ornament of speech," in media critic Neil Postman's words, then it would have been only "pretentious, superficial and unnecessary." But as she got older, Barbara's oratory, like that of the Sophists of fifth-century Greece who invented the rules of rhetoric, was more than a mere opportunity for dramatic performance. Rather, it was a means of organizing evidence and proofs in order to communicate truth. When she delivered her most eloquent speeches, her audiences felt they did indeed hear the essence of truth. And because of it, they were uplifted, perhaps transformed momentarily, to better versions of themselves.

It wasn't only her Olympian voice that awed people," Sandy Grady believed. "It was her ferocious insistence that justice wasn't only for the rich and powerful."

In her withdrawal from public life, Barbara found both a new purpose and new opportunities for her talents — and a new sense of her own power. In her re-entry, she was discovering that the joy — and meaning — of her life as a teacher came from the variety and depth of her experiences, rather than from using them as a means to get something else. The new experiences she began to choose were unrelated to any distant ambition, and they were attractive to her solely because of their inherent interest. She wanted to pack as many of them as she could into her new life.

"In my *other* life, I was in the spiral to get ahead," she said. "I was propelled by a driving force and was leading what I now consider to be an unbalanced life. I was forty years old before I decided I really could turn my head and look in another direction. . . . It is not a sin not to work twenty-four hours a day. I began including things that were enjoyable and pleasurable and found that it's not all one way or the other," she said.

In her new life, Barbara also had learned another lesson. "I live a day at a time," she said. "Each day I look for a kernel of excitement. In the morning, I say: 'What is my exciting thing for today?' Then I do the day. Don't ask me about tomorrow."

Barbara Jordan died in Austin of complications from leukemia on Jan. 17, 1996. She was 59.

The guardhouse served as the focal point of life at Fort Phantom Hill.

A misbegotten fort on Phantom Hill

Story and photos by Ed Erwin

The name "Phantom Hill" most likely evolved from an illusion of distance and perspective. From a distance the hill on which the historical West Texas fort was built appears to rise sharply from the plains. But as the traveler gets closer, the hill seems to become flatter, retreating like a phantom.

That's the generally accepted explanation, but there also are several romanticized tales describing an American Indian warrior whose ghostly image appears like a phantom on moonlit nights.

Today there's not much left of Fort Phantom Hill near Abilene, but visitors are welcome to explore the remains, and to piece together the history of a military installation that never should have been built there in the first place.

With the expansion of Western settlements and increased contact between settlers and Indians, a cordon of forts was established from the Red River to the Rio Grande. What would eventually become known as Fort Phantom Hill was ordered to be built at the fringe of the frontier.

On Nov. 14, 1851, under the command of Lt. Col. John J. Abercrombie, five companies of the Fifth Infantry arrived at what they thought was Pecan Bayou. Their orders were to build a fort on Pecan Bayou. However, Abercrombie was unfamiliar with the area and built the fort 50 miles north of Pecan Bayou at the tributary known as Clear Fork on the Brazos.

This geographical mistake ultimately would lead to early abandonment of the fort.

Paramount to the establishment of a military post is an adequate supply of water. Because Clear Fork was often dry or brackish, it was necessary to haul barrels of water in wagons from a spring four miles upriver from the post.

Providing water for the needs of more than 200 soldiers became an insurmountable task, and in 1854 the fort was abandoned. A historical irony exists in the fact that in 1938, only two miles south of the fort, a reservoir was built and named for the fort. Today, the city of Abilene owns and operates the reservoir for a municipal water supply and recreational purposes.

This is what remains of the adjutant's office and a reading room for troops. It was one of the few structures built with a basement.

The fort's parade ground overlooks the vast grassy plains, stretching for miles to the north and east. It was this immense prairie that drew frontier families to West Texas. With an abundance of grazing land for livestock, it was ideal for homesteaders.

Although the military had come to protect the settlers from any threat from Lipan, Kiowa, Kickapoo and Comanche Indians who also lived on the West Texas prairie, the soldiers and the Indians had very limited engagement.

Emma Johnson, who as a child lived at the fort with her parents, described the only significant Indian threat at the fort itself:

"A trench eight feet wide was cut around the garrison; the artillery was placed on a parapet in the center, ready to sweep the environments. A few days after completion of preparations, they were sighted, approaching. [The Comanche] chief, Buffalo Hump, was in the lead, then his subordinates, warriors, squaws and papooses, 2,500 in all. Seeing the preparations, they passed on – with scowls and angry looks.

The fort was never actually named "Fort Phantom Hill." A review of the military records refers to it as the "Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos," but the Phantom Hill name became so popular that it is still commonly used in books and other references.

Today the fort's remains include more than a dozen chimneys, two complete buildings and native-limestone foundation outlines. All told, they're a solemn reminder of the harsh lifestyle led by the frontier soldier.

Typical of forts built during this time period, it had no outer wall. Most frontier commanders followed the prescription that it was better for troop morale to depend on vigilance and breechloaders for protection than to hide behind palisades.

On the north side of the 20-acre site are remnants of the officers' quarters. Lined in true military precision, six imposing chimneys still preside over the fort, as did the senior officers during the 1850s. Officers were privileged and allowed to live in private quarters consisting of two to four rooms, but the quarters were small, as evidenced by the foundations that remain.

The location and remnants of the 11 company quarters are south of the guardhouse and parade ground. Here enlisted men were crammed into barracks with no privacy. Maj. George Forsyth summed it up when he described a company barracks as "too small, poorly constructed, illy ventilated, overcrowded, generally cold in winter, hot in summer."

During an inspection of the post in 1853 a military observer noted, "The officers and soldiers are living in pole huts that are in a dilapidated condition. The company quarters will in all probability fall down during the prevalence of the severe [norther] of the winter."

Given the low pay of $16 a month, poor living conditions and the proximity of the warlike Comanches, it was not surprising that many soldiers deserted, taking with them their horses, rifles and other equipment they could sell on the frontier. In an attempt to protect the post's goods from light-fingered soldiers, the commissary storehouse and ammunition maga-

Though the structures they served are gone, majestic fireplaces dominate the landscape of the frontier post.

A few years later the remaining buildings were used as a way station for the southern overland mail on the Butterfield Trail.

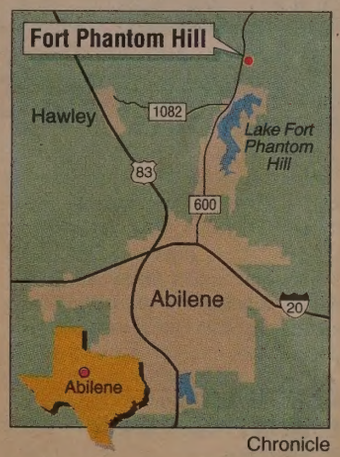
The Fort Phantom Foundation portrays this property, registered with the Texas Historical Survey Committee, as "standing lonely and apart, aloof and dignified – a rock reminder of the colorful early days of Texas – a shrine on the rolling prairie."

HOW TO GET THERE: Fort Phantom Hill is on private property belonging to James M. Alexander of Abilene and is open to the public at no charge. The fort can be reached by driving north 14 miles from Interstate 20 at Abilene on FM 600. For more information, contact the Fort Phantom Foundation at 915-677-1309.

Ed Erwin is a free-lance photographer and writer in Houston.

zine were constructed entirely of stone. These two buildings, along with the original guardhouse, still stand at the post.

Three years after the fort was established, Indians in the area were placed on a reservation between the present cities of Albany and Throckmorton. In April 1854 the post was abandoned and shortly afterwards burned. Although the cause of the fire remains a mystery, it has been attributed to everyone from Indians to an irate officer's wife.



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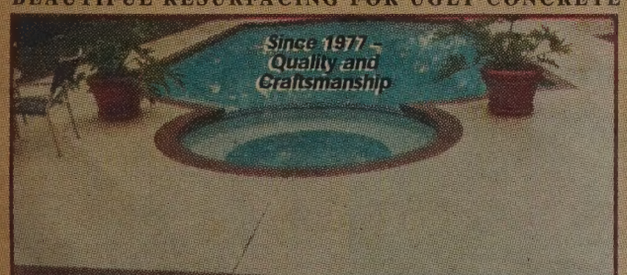

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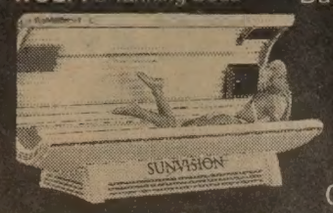

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FESTIVALS

Continued from Page 5

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CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 11-13, 18-20. **Where:** George Ranch Historical Park, Richmond. **Contact:** 281-343-0218. **Admission:** $30 adults, $27 seniors, $25 ages 12 and younger.

This event begins each evening with a Christmas meal featuring entertainment by cowboy and cowgirl singers, followed by a tour of an 1890s Victorian mansion decorated for the season and activities around a cowboy camp.

CANDLELIGHT AT THE RANCH

When: Dec. 11-12. **Where:** Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock. **Contact:** 806-742-0498. **Admission:** free.

The center is an outdoor museum of 34 restored buildings that represent ranching from the 1830s to the 1920s. For this 20th annual event, pathways will be lined with hundreds of *luminarias*, and lanterns and candles will light the interiors of the historical buildings where costumed ranch hosts depict holiday celebrations of the past.

Historical homes will be open for a tour in Montgomery.

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

When: Dec. 12. **Where:** Coldspring. **Contact:** 409-653-2184. **Admission:** free.

This 16th annual festival will feature carriage rides, hayrides, stagecoach tours, live music, cloggers, strolling Christmas carolers, square-dancing, antiques, painted clothing, jewelry, angels, yard artwork and crafts.

SECOND SATURDAY MARKET DAYS

When: Dec. 12. **Where:** Georgetown. **Contact:** 512-930-3545. **Admission:** free.

Arts and crafts, antiques, holiday gifts and decorations will be on display for Christmas shoppers.

CLEAR LAKE CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

When: Dec. 12. **Where:** Clear Lake. **Contact:** 281-488-7676. **Admission:** free.

More than 100 boats will be in this year's parade, which kicks off at 6 p.m. at South Shore Harbour, League City.

CHRISTMAS IN OLD MONTGOMERY

When: Dec. 12. **Where:** Montgomery. **Contact:** 409-597-4899. **Admission:** $6 adults, $3 children for home tour.

This 21st annual event will include a Candlelight Home Tour of 12 historical buildings, a cookie walk, a parade and an old-fashioned Christmas dinner.

SNOWFEST FESTIVAL

When: Dec. 12. **Where:** Missouri City. **Contact:** 281-261-4290. **Admission:** free.

This 15th annual event kicks off with a parade, marching bands and Santa. Organizers say there will be 100,000 pounds of snow for building snowmen, plus food, a carnival and entertainment.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

When: Dec. 13. **Where:** Chappell Hill. **Contact:** 800-225-3695. **Admission:** free.

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Gender time warp: a 1-minute eternity

There are two kinds of people in the world, and I am one of them.

I'm the kind of person who likes to be on time for things. In fact, I like to be early. Let's say I need to catch a flight that's leaving at 4 p.m. In planning my drive to the airport, I'll factor in a "cushion" to allow for the unexpected, such as heavy traffic or a flat tire or being kidnapped. Usually I'm at the gate, ticket out, ready to go, no later than 7:14 a.m.

My wife is the other kind of person. For her, the ideal way to catch a plane would be to arrive at the airport as the plane was taking off. She'd stand at the end of the runway, and as the plane flew over her, it would snatch her up with a big hook. Even then, she'd wait until the last second.

"What's the hurry?" she'd say. "The plane isn't even halfway down the runway yet!"

Part of this is a cultural difference. I grew up in a WASP household, and my wife grew up in a Cuban household. WASPs tend to follow schedules strictly; Cubans tend to be more relaxed. If a WASP wedding is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. Saturday, the wedding march will start at 2 p.m. sharp, and the bride will come down the aisle at 2:03 p.m., no matter what, even if the originally scheduled groom has bailed out and the bride has to use an emergency backup groom taken right off the street.

Whereas in a typical Cuban wedding, the phrase "2 p.m." is translated as "possibly this weekend." (True fact: I once went to a wedding at a Cuban home; I arrived 20 minutes before the scheduled start and was greeted at the door by the bride, who was still in curlers.) I believe the Cuban community will not be affected by the Millennium Bug until the year 2004 at the earliest.

But the difference between my wife and me is not totally cultural; I think it's also gender-related. I believe men and women do not view time the same way: I think that, in general, women think there is WAY more time in the universe than men do. This is not just some half-baked notion of mine: This is a scientific, statistically valid conclusion that I reached by talking to some guys about their wives. In every case, the guys had experienced friction with their wives over the issue of time.

The way this typically works is, a couple will be going to a party, and they'll agree they're going to leave the house at 7:30 p.m. The wife, believing that the universe has plenty of time left, interprets 7:30 to mean "around 8" or, more specifically, "9." Whereas the husband, acutely sensitive to the dwindling supply of time, interprets 7:30 to mean "around 7," which, after he allows for an emergency cushion, translates to 6:45. The husband likes to allow a cushion on top of the cushion, in case there's a tornado or nuclear war, so he's dressed and ready to leave at 5:30, at which time the wife is figuring that she still has more than three hours – or, rounding it off, four hours.

By 7:25, the husband is a nervous wreck. By his figuring, they are now almost two hours late for the party (the husband never wanted to go to the party in the first place, but that is no longer relevant). The husband doesn't dare say anything directly to his wife, however, because this has resulted in friction on several prior occasions (2,381 prior occasions, to be exact). So he tries to alert her to the urgency of the situation via the Universal Husband Signaling Method, which is jingling his keys. This makes his wife crazy. She's thinking, "Why is he JINGLING already? We have TONS of time!" So, in a mistaken effort to calm him down, she calls out the words that cause despair in the hearts of men:

"I'm almost ready! I'm just putting on my makeup!"

To the husband, these two statements contradict each other. It's like saying: "I'm very short! I'm 38 feet tall!" Or: "You can believe me! I'm Bill Clinton!" Because to the husband, "I'm just putting on my makeup" means "I'm painstakingly applying 450 coats of beauty products to my face using an applicator the width of a human hair." Granted, the wife can do this in seven minutes, but it seems way longer to the husband because of Albert Einstein's Theory of Cosmetic Relativity, which states that "every minute that a wife spends putting on makeup is experienced as 45 minutes by a husband who has reached the key-jingling stage." By the time they actually leave the house (at 7:40) there is so much friction that the car may burst into flames. If they make it to the party, the husband, trying to keep on schedule, will immediately want to leave.

I realize that I've made some sweeping generalizations in this column, and you may disagree with me. If so, and you'd like to "drop me a line" so I can see your side of the story, you can forget about it, because I'm running late as it is.

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Historic 76th Legislature Kicks Off, To Address Several G/L Issues

By Francisco Sanchez
Special to the TRIANGLE

AUSTIN - As the gavel fell this past Tuesday in both the House and Senate chambers of the state capitol, the 76th Texas Legislature embarked on the last session of this century. The historic session will mark the first Republican lieutenant governor since Reconstruction and the re-election of Gov. George W. Bush will make him the first Republican back-to-back governor.

The newly elected Republican leadership in the upper chamber will manage a slipping Republican majority in the Senate while Democrats in the House under Speaker Pete Laney enjoy a six-vote majority. The bipartisan spirit of Tuesday's swearing in ceremonies laid the groundwork for the gubernatorial inauguration in the coming week.

The cautious and conservative approach of the Texas legislature remains evident in the rules adopted by the Texas House on Wednesday. Although committee slots and chairmanships have not been assigned, no dramatic shift is expected in the carefully balanced distribution of leadership positions and choice committee assignments. The 140-day session is not expected to hit full swing for another few weeks.

"The political make-up of the legislature has changed very little. The basic philosophy of the House remains the same. The few Democrats that left after the last term weren't gay friendly anyway. In terms of gay/lesbian issues, there is no setback in that respect," says Texas' only openly gay legislator, Rep. Glen Maxey (D-Austin).

Maxey, who handily defeated gay Republican opposition in last November's general election says the ability of gay/lesbian parents to adopt or care for foster children, would be the focus of anti-gay efforts. "The gay adoption issue will be the religious right's focus this time around. They've made that fairly clear. They want to get record votes to go after Democrats and moderate Republicans," adds Maxey.

The legislature will also be grappling with issues surrounding the sodomy statute, gay marriage, non-discrimination in education and employment, and HIV/AIDS. Numerous bills have been filed already.

H.B. 14 by Rep. Tony Goolsby (R-Dallas) relates to a mandatory blood test to obtain a marriage license. The bill would require a HIV/AIDS test prior to issuing a marriage license and could deny the right of HIV positive individuals to marry.

Critics of H.B. 14, which has been unsuccessfully filed in previous sessions, argues that the bill infringes on individual civil rights. The bill has also been opposed in the past by county clerks that would be required to implement the proposed procedures.

Other proposals like H.B. 410 by Rep. Brian McCall (R-Plano) and S.B. 94 by Sen. Mike Moncrief (D-Tarrant) would positively affect HIV/AIDS care by upgrading standards in home health provider practices. Measures that would improve the privacy and security of the names of HIV positive persons reported to the Texas Department of Health are also expected to be filed later in the process.

Rep. Warren Chisum (D-Pampa) and Rep. Robert Talton (R-Pasadena) will seek to limit the parenting rights of gays and lesbians. H.B. 382 by Chisum bans gays/lesbians from acting as adoptive or foster parents. H.B. 415 by Talton allows for a background investigation by state officials to ensure that potential foster parents do not engage in homosexual conduct Chisum has also filed H.B. 383 to prohibit state recognition of same-sex marriages. A similar bill by Chisum, Chair of the House Conservative Caucus, failed in the 1997 legislative session.

A study conducted by Austin-based economist Carol Bennett, Ph.D., for the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) found that implementing the gay adoption ban would cost Texas taxpayers $50 million over the next five years.

Pro-gay legislation has also been filed. H.B. 337 by Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston) is aimed at repealing the state's antiquated sodomy statute, Sec. 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. The legislation will be considered while an appeals process is underway in the case involving two Houston area men charged with violation of the sodomy law late last year. Hate crimes legislation has been refiled by Rep. Scott Hochberg (D-Houston). The bill would expand the categories currently listed under the Texas Family Code to include sexual orientation as a hate crime motive.

Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt (D-Dallas) will address non-discrimination in education at two levels. H.B. 337 and H.B. 364, both by Ehrhardt, denies school districts the ability to deny educational opportunity or employment because of color, race, disability, religion, sex, national origin, age, or sexual orientation. The bills go further by defining sexual orientation as "homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual orientation, real or perceived." Rep. Maxey also filed H.B. 475, the Texas Employment Non-Discrimination Act (TexENDA) relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"Last weekend's murder of an 18 year old gay teenager here in Austin makes this

continued on next page

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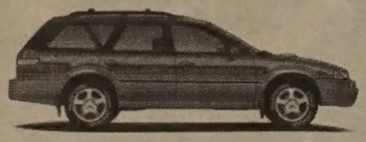

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particularly important. It reminds us that there is no statewide protection for gay youth right now. It's fundamental that Texas adopt this law," says LGRL Executive Director Diane Hardy-Garcia.

One third of school drops outs and a third of street kids are also gay or lesbian, according to Garcia.

"Donald Scott Fuller, the gay teenager killed in Austin this weekend, is a real example of what happens when the system abandons gay and lesbian children," says Garica.

The first major lobbying day during the 76th Texas Legislature will be organized by Texas Transgender Advocacy Information Network (T-GAIN). The group is organizing a lobby day for transgender issues later this month, January 27th. Members of T-GAIN will travel to Austin to talk to lawmakers about their concerns.

The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby will also sponsor a march and lobby day that it hosts each legislative session to organize the state's gay/lesbian community. The event, scheduled for the month of March, is expected to be the session's largest gay/lesbian advocacy event. The "March on Austin" will be held on Sunday, March 21st and a lobby day will follow on Monday, March 22nd.

Log Cabin Republicans of Texas will also have a lobbyist for the first time during the 76th Legislature.

"We will be having a lobbying day in March or April but we are not sure when yet," said Log Cabin Texas President Steve Labinski. "The focus of our work will be to work with Republican members and chairmen. Since we are not certain who that will be yet, we will start our program when that is established. We are certainly going to be working with the Lt. Governor's office in the future," says Labinski.

The myriad of gay, lesbian, and HIV/AIDS related legislation is being watched by a greater number of interested local and statewide organizations. While the general focus of gay/lesbian concerns has been established for the next biennium, the outcome is far from determined.

"There's no way to anticipate how these things will work out in the process. Show me someone who is willing to predict how things will make it through or end up and I'll show you someone who is probably going to be wrong," adds Maxey.

House and Senate members have until ninety days into session, March 12th, to file legislation. Individuals may monitor the progress of legislation on the internet on the Texas Legislative Council website at www.capitol.state.tx.us. Information on local state representatives or senators can be obtained in the blue pages of your local business phone book.

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to Military's Gay Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court once again left intact the Military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy today, rejecting a challenge by two former servicemen discharged after declaring their homosexuality.

The court, without comment, turned away arguments by the men that the policy is based on prejudice against homosexuals and violates their free-speech rights. Today's action, while not a definitive ruling, marked the fifth time in recent years that the highest court has rejected efforts to invalidate the policy.

The policy was adopted in 1993 after President Clinton's initial effort to end the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the military sparked heavy criticism in Congress. It prohibits inquiries into a service member's sexual orientation but allows discharge for homosexual conduct or for a "propensity" to engage in homosexual conduct.

A service member's statement that he or she is gay is considered evidence of a propensity to engage in such acts. Every federal appeals court that has considered the issue has upheld the policy.

The appeal acted on today was filed by National Guard 1st Lt. Andrew Holmes of Sacramento, Calif., and Navy Lt. Richard Watson. Holmes declared his homosexuality to his commanding officer in 1993. Watson was serving in Bremerton, Wash., in October 1994 when he submitted a written statement to his commanding officer that said, "I have a homosexual orientation."

Both men were discharged and sued in federal courts. A judge in San Francisco ruled for Holmes and declared the military policy unconstitutional. But a judge in Seattle ruled against Watson. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals combined the cases and upheld the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The military has a legitimate interest in barring service members who engage in homosexual acts, the court said. The government can rationally assume that someone who declares his or her homosexuality is likely to engage in gay sex, the appeals court added.

In their Supreme Court appeal, the two men said the policy was based on the armed forces' "ancient and persistent anti-homosexual bias," adding that it unfairly penalized them for disclosing their sexual orientation.

Government lawyers said the policy "serves the legitimate objectives of prohibiting homosexual acts in the military, promoting unit cohesion, protecting privacy interests and reducing sexual tensions."

Anti-Gay Adoption Legislation to Cost Taxpayers $10M Annually

AUSTIN – A new study suggests that the costs attributed to the pending anti-gay adoption and foster care legislation could catapult to $10 million dollars annually, according to the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

The study was heralded at joint press conference between LGRL and State Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston) to demonstrate the enormity of costs associated with barring gays from serving as adoptive or foster parents.

The study focused on the costs of two pending bills in the upcoming state legislature: HB382 and HB415, by Reps. Warren Chisum and Robert Talton, respectively. The bills, which would prevent the state from allowing gays to adopt or provide foster care – even to their own relatives, would essentially require investigations into the sexuality of prospective adoptive or foster care guardians. Additionally, HB 416 would require that children already under the care of gay foster parents be removed from their families.

"It is critical that everyone band together to fight this legislation," says Danburg. "We know that neither of these bills are in the best interest of Texas children and Dr. Bennett's study clearly shows that these bills will be extremely costly to the state."

Dr. Carol Bennett, who has a Ph. D. in Economics, is the author of the aforementioned study. She has analyzed numerous business and public policy issues as an economist at Texas Commerce Bank and Price Waterhouse. The self-employed consultant estimates the cost to be $10 million annually.

"To put this number in perspective," says Dr. Bennett, the $10 million annual cost is equivalent to hiring 333 Child Protective Services caseworkers at $24,000 in salary and $6,000 in benefits (annually). For the same additional expenditures as the ban, the State could protect thousands of helpless Texas children and find them safe places to live and to grow."

Also present at the press conference was Dr. Ron Wilkerson, spokesperson for the National Association of Social Workers. He discussed the consequences of the anti-gay legislation were it to be adopted in the 76th Legislature. Families affected by the legislation were also present.

According to Wilkerson, "the passages of these bills would be a misguided use of valuable resources which could more importantly be used to stop child abuse and neglect." In addition, he said, there is no credible research that indicates a need for HB 382 and HB 415.

"Representatives Talton and Chisum explain that they are trying to pass this legislation because they are looking out for the best interest of the children," argued LGRL Executive Director. "But instead of trying to constructively address the needs of abused children, both these bills waste millions of tax dollars in another extreme attempt to discriminate against gays and lesbians."

Political Caucus Elects New Officers, Seeks Board Nominees

HOUSTON - The Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) elected new officers last week at its monthly meeting. The organization also opened nominations for vacant board positions.

Carl Smith was handily elected as the organizations new president. Political activist and city employee Terence O'Neill was elected Vice President and board Chair. Treasurer Michelle Myers was re-elected to her post. There were no nominations for Secretary however Scott Simpson will be the group's acting Secretary until nominations come forth.

"This is a year for the caucus to grow. Our first priority is the upcoming city election. We need to begin our grassroots work now so that our endorsed candidates in the municipal elections this fall will be able to benefit from our group's work," Smith said. "I'm confident that our new officers and board members will work to strengthen the caucus and our community."

Smith, a longtime community activist, replaced Clarence Bagby, a longtime member of the organization and its board, who opted not to run for leadership post. Bagby, like Smith, has also been an activist for gay causes for years.

The caucus will undergoing preparations for the 1999 municipal elections that will include the campaign of openly lesbian City Councilmember Annise Parker. The vacancies in several positions at the end of this year are also of interest to the group.

"This is a critical juncture for the HGLPC and our community. We have the opportunity to re-elect our city's first openly gay city official and make a difference in a variety of other races," says Smith. "We have a responsibility to support candidates that support gay and lesbian issues."

The group, one of the oldest gay rights groups in the nation, will also be expanding its grass roots organizing efforts to target the actions of the upcoming 76th Texas Legislature. Issues relating to the Texas

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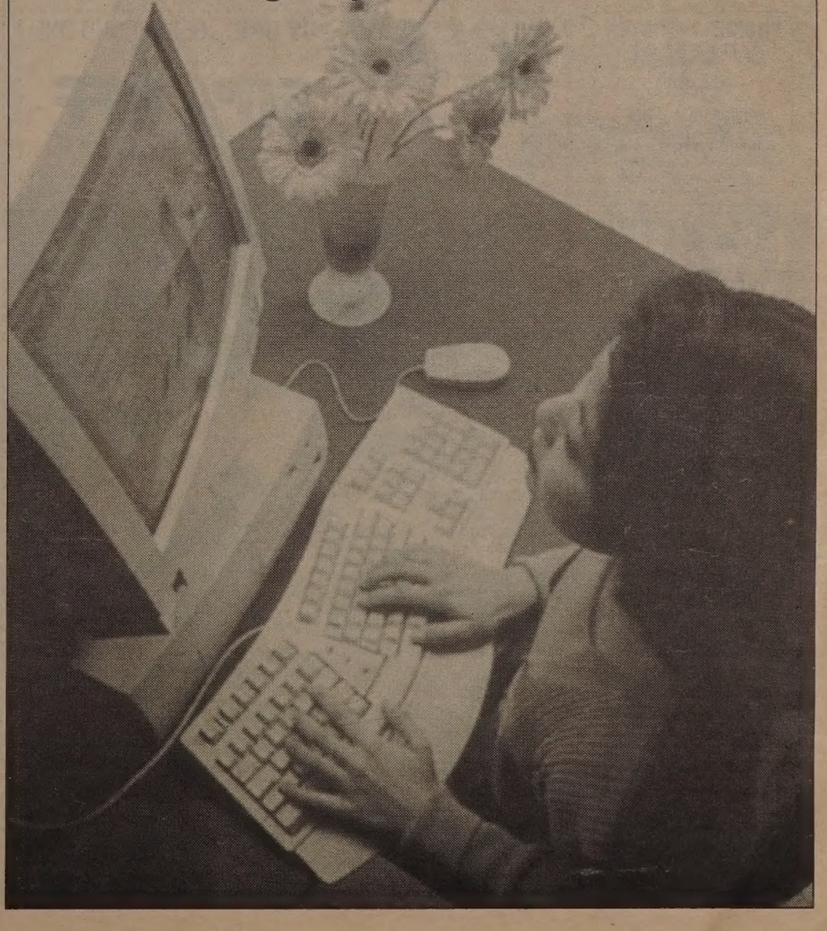

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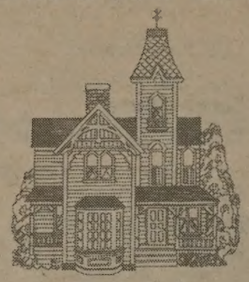
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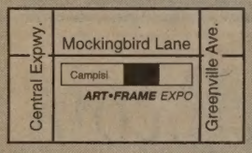

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sodomy statute, gay/lesbian adoption, HIV/AIDS testing and funding, and non-discrimination are legislative concerns of the caucus.

"Our involvement in the legislative process is crucial to Houston's gay/lesbian community. We have one openly gay elected official in the Texas legislature," O'Neill informed. "That makes our local involvement much more important. We need to be able to work with our local legislators to secure a voice for our concerns." O'Neill is a member of Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parkers staff.

" I think this is an opportunity for political growth and to capitalize on our community's increasing interest in the political process. I'm honored that the caucus has placed such confidence in me and has given me the chance to work with such good people," concludes Smith.

Ft. Worth City Council Expected to Postpone Discrimination Initiative

FORT WORTH – City Councilman's Ralph McCloud's plans to ask the City Council to discuss incorporating sexual orientation to the city's anti-discrimination appears to be headed to the same defeat that met a similar proposal in 1992.

Earlier this week McCloud had been expected to introduce such a discussion, a move favored by council members Frank Moss, Cathy Hirt and Clyde Picht. However, according to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Mayor Kenneth Barr and Picht, along with four other city council members have indicated they are opposed to granting such protections to gays and lesbians under the city's anti-discrimination rules.

Barr, the paper reports, has repeatedly stated he does not believe that such a measure is needed and that it would not win the council's approval. The mayor also indicated that city council should not put the community through the trauma of a public debate on sexual orientation when the pre-ordained outcome makes clear the proposal is destined to fail.

Meanwhile, Council member Chuck Silcox told the *Dallas Morning News* Tuesday that he has signatures from five council members - a majority - forcing a vote on whether to indefinitely postpone the issue. The Fort Worth city Human Relations Commission recommended that municipal laws be changed to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual preference. "I don't think it's productive for the city of Fort Worth to discuss it," Mr. Silcox said.

Barr and council members Becky Haskin, Jim Lane and Jeff Wentworth joined Mr. Silcox in signing the request for indefinite postponement, the paper reports. Council member Clyde Picht had also said he would oppose the proposal but supported holding a public hearing.

McCloud did win the council's approval Tuesday to have the proposal discussed at the council's workshop session next week, albeit it appears that the proposal may never leave the discussion phase. "There seems to be huge misunderstandings and misconceptions," McCloud said. "I think either we publicly discuss or publicly agree not to discuss the Human Relations Commission recommendation."

McCloud told the paper that he is disappointed that Silcox's move would effectively kill the proposal before it can ever get a hearing. "Theoretically, that would leave it dead in the water," Mr. McCloud said.

Black Tie Celebrates Record Gifts

HOUSTON – The Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. announced two historic firsts earlier this week: the organization bestowed the highest distribution to beneficiaries since its inception and the election of its first woman president.

Gifts to beneficiaries from the 1998 dinner totaled $118,000, a record for the organization, which has donated over $600,000 to gay and lesbian community organizations since 1993. This years recipients included AIDS Action Foundation, the Assistance Fund, AssistHers, Bering Community Service Foundation, Body Positive, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, Omega House, P-Flag Houston, PWA Coalition and the Texas Human Rights Foundation.

Dinner co-chairs Amanda Barhorst and Jason Davis attributed the success of this years events to the high number of ticket sales and to the excitement that surrounded the keynote speaker, acclaimed television actress Judith Light.

"Judith Light electrified the room; there's no doubt about that," said Barhorst. Light's speech to the gathering ignited a spontaneous live auction for her speech notes, adding $5,000 to the evening's success, said Davis.

In related news, the organization elected Barhorst as its first woman president. Barhorst is legendary in Houston for her volunteer efforts and her uncanny ability to organize an event. She is involved in so many different avenues of gay and lesbian issues. Barhorst has been active with the Black Tie events for some time and is also involved with Body Positive and Uncommon Legacy.

by Rex Wockner

2,798 Dutch Couples Have Registered

Just under 2,800 same-sex couples got hitched under The Netherlands' registered-partnership law in the first 10 months of its existence, reports the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics.

The law, which took effect in January 1998, grants registered couples all rights of matrimony with the exception that procedures for adoption by same-sex couples have not been fully implemented.

One thousand one hundred ninety-eight of the registered couples are female pairs, 1,507 are male and 1,291 are opposite-sex.

Meanwhile, The Netherlands is also on-track to become the first nation in the world to let same-sex couples marry under the regular marriage laws, with both the government and the parliament now having voiced support for the move.

Elsewhere, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have partnership laws specifically for homosexuals. In general, they grant all rights of matrimony except access to adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings. Hungary recognizes a type of common-law gay marriage, withholding only the right to adoption.

Philippine Catholic Bishops Denounce Ads

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has denounced three new TV ads that endorse condom use to prevent transmission of HIV.

"The solution is that husbands should remain faithful to their wives, and then there is no AIDS," said Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the conference's assistant secretary general.

The ads were funded by the United Nations Population Fund and the local AIDS organization ReachOut.

Former Ottawa Mayor Had Female Partner

The mayor of Ottawa, Canada, from 1951-1956 , 1960-1964 was apparently gay.

The late Charlotte Whitton's secret life was revealed Jan. 7 when staffers at the National Archives opened a box of her personal papers that she had ordered sealed until now.

It contained love letters to and from her live-in companion, Margaret Grier–including letters Whitton continued to write to Grier for two years after Grier's death in 1947.

"Oh! Mardie, Mardie, how can I go on," Whitton wrote in one missive three week's after Grier's death. "We must just go on being with each other. ... Ours wasn't love, it was a knitting together of mind and spirit: it was something given to few of God."

Whitton was the first woman mayor of a large Canadian city. Among her more memorable words: "Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought of half so good. Luckily, it's not difficult."

Joe Orton Toilets to be Saved

The Victorian toilets where famed gay playwright Joe Orton cruised for sex will be renovated by London's Camden Council with $82,000 in national lottery funds, in part as a memorial to Orton.

The 102-year-old underground conveniences — in South End Green, Hampstead and North London — were built by the London and North Western Railway. According to the London Times: "The walls are covered with green and white tiles and the cubicles have panelled timber doors and cast iron decorative screens. They featured prominently in Prick Up Your Ears, the film of Orton's life starring Gary Oldman."

Orton's sister, Leoni Orton-Barnett, is keen on the restoration.

"It is a very odd monument [to Joe]," she said. "But if they can spend millions doing up the Albert Memorial with gold, why not?

"Joe frequented cottages [the British term for cruisy men's rooms] all the time," Orton-Barnett said. "It is a place where gays meet and strut their stuff. We know from George Michael's arrest that it is still common practice. It wasn't just the cheap sex. Joe liked to be the fly on the wall. You don't get to know what life is really about by knocking about with BBC directors and Oxford dons. The crudity and sparseness of life is to be found in public lavatories."

The local South End Green residents' association also supports memorializing Orton by restoring his favorite tearooms (the American term for cruisy toilets).

"Joe Orton is a claim to fame," said Chairman Michael Render. "There may be some people who are enraged about Orton's connection with the lavatories but I have not met them. We are a tolerant bunch."

A spokesman for The National Heritage Memorial Fund concurred, "There is an added something from the fact that Joe Orton used them."

Gay Group Sues Canadian Government

The organization Foundation for Equal Families sued the Canadian government Jan. 7 demanding it change 58 laws that define a spouse as someone of the opposite sex.

The group says the laws are discriminatory and conflict with court rulings that have granted same-sex partners spousal rights.

Among the laws targeted are ones dealing with social-security benefits, pensions, income taxes and immigration.

"We are dealing here, in this case, solely… with principles that have already been clearly established by the courts," said the foundation's lawyer, David Corbett. "The legislature hasn't been listening. We're going to ask the courts to speak again."

British Anti-gay Group Dies

Britain's Conservative Family Institute (CFI) is closing down in the face of criticism from the Conservative party which is embarrassed by the organization's anti-gay campaigning.

In announcing the shutdown, CFI head Adrian Rogers said: "[The party's supportive] attitude to homosexual candidates is completely wrong. The central party has done nothing to help support those of us with pro-family views and if the party does not want a Conservative Family Institute to exist it is a terrible reflection on the current leadership."

Knighted Actor Unhappy About Outing

Unlike most celebrities who get outed, newly knighted British actor Nigel Hawthorne, star of "The Madness of King George" and TV's "Yes, Minister", did not find the experience liberating.

"I felt it was a terrible intrusion on my privacy," he told *The Times* of London. "[Gay actor Sir] Ian McKellen always said I should come out. But why? I make my living playing heterosexuals.

"My partner [Trevor Bentham] and I don't want to stand up and say we're gay, because we think [announcing it publicly is] wrong. The best way to get people to accept you is to move about the community and show them there's nothing to be afraid of."

Global PWA Group to Meet in Warsaw

The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) and The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS will stage the 9th International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS Aug. 13-19 in Warsaw, Poland.

For full details visit the conference's Web site at (http://www.hivnet.ch/gnp/warsaw/index.htm) or by writing Christopher Park, International Coordinator, GNP+, P.O. Box 11726, 1001 GS Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Phone: 011-31-20-423-4114. Fax: 011-31-20-423-4224. E-mail: gnp@gn.apc.org

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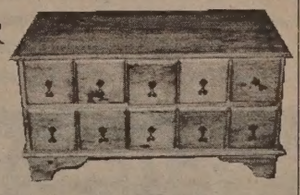
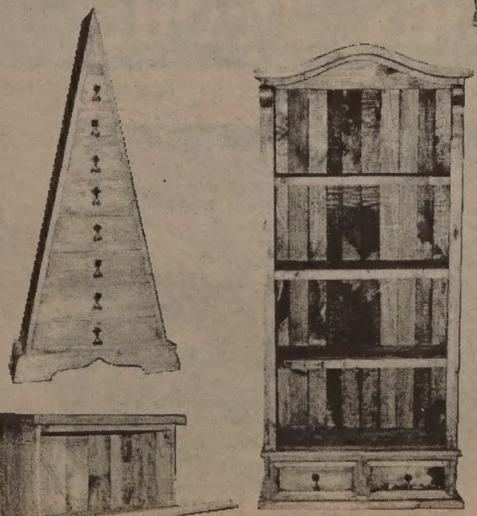
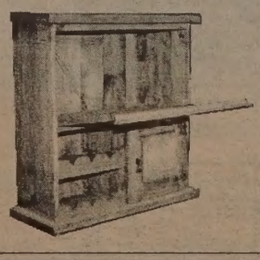
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Decision to Seek Death Penalty in Hate Crime Stirs Debate

CHEYENNE - A national gay rights group has condemned a prosecutor's decision to seek the death penalty against two men accused of murdering a gay University of Wyoming student.

Michael Petrelis, a member of Queer Watch in San Francisco, called on prominent gay groups to oppose capital punishment in the high-profile case and denounce their "continuing silence. ... Putting anyone to death for the murder ... is just as barbaric as tying the victim to a fence post and leaving him to die in sub-zero temperatures," he said.

Matthew Shepard, 21, died after a brutal attack near Laramie in October in which he was pistol-whipped, tied to a fence and left to die in freezing temperatures. Albany County Attorney Cal Rerucha announced last week he will seek the death penalty against Russell Henderson, 21, and Aaron McKinney, 21, on charges of first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery.

Queer Watch members said if the men are convicted, killing them will do nothing to change attitudes toward homosexuality. The group maintains that other groups' refusal to denounce capital punishment "is ultimately a failure to fight for the protection of the rights of gay people as well."

But other groups' members said they do not plan to oppose capital punishment because not everyone agrees on the appropriateness of the death penalty.

"We have a half-million members, so I imagine we have a half-million different opinions on the death penalty,"said Wayne Besson, associate communications director of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. "We're not going to get into that spirited debate."

"We want the law to be applied properly and we want to see (Shepard's killers) punished appropriately," said Rebecca Isaacs, political director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, issued a statement immediately after the facts of Matthew Shepard's killing were known, calling for the state of Wyoming to seek the death penalty against the killers.

"In addition to the hateful components of the killers' motives, it was the most brutal crime committed in the state of Wyoming in recent memory," the group said in a statement. "Seeking anything less than the strongest possible punishment allowed under state law would send a message to the world that Matthew Shepard's life was somehow less valuable than the law demands, and would send a further chill through the gay and lesbian community across the nation. Regardless of the sexual orientation of the victim, such a heinous crime demands the highest punishment."

Henderson's trial is scheduled to begin March 22, while McKinney's trial will begin Aug. 9.

Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Injecting His Son with AIDS

ST. CHARLES, Mo. - Brian Stewart sat quietly in court, hands crossed before him, as his former girlfriend spoke of the horrors of their son's AIDS. Later, Stewart remained silent, staring straight ahead, as the judge sentenced him to life in prison for injecting the boy with HIV-tainted blood.

"I believe when God finally calls you, you are going to burn in hell from here to eternity," Judge Ellsworth Cundiff told Stewart. Stewart, 32, of Columbia, Ill., was convicted last month of first-degree assault.

Prosecutors said the hospital technician injected the blood in his son so he could avoid paying child support. Prior to sentencing, the child's mother, identified only as Jennifer to protect the boy's anonymity, sobbed as she read a statement from her son, now 7.

"I feel mad ... Why did he do such a bad thing to me," she quoted the boy as saying. Jennifer said the life sentence was little consolation for what Stewart has forced her and her family to endure. "Who really has been given a life sentence?" she asked. "We are prisoners without cells." Stewart declined to make a statement.

Guard Describes Death of Inmate Beaten by Guards

FORT MYERS, Fla. - A prison guard who took part in the beating of an HIV-positive inmate proffered testimony last week detailing how guards at the Charlotte Correctional Institution taunted and tortured the man and then left him to die.

Charlotte prison guard John Robbins said security Capt. Kevin Browning stood over convicted murderer John Edwards, telling him he better hope he died. "Capt. Browning began pulling hairs from the inmate's eyebrows, from his chest and from his thighs," Robbins said. "Every time he pulled one, he'd say, "Boy, that's got to hurt."

Prosecutors contend Charlotte guards injured and intimidated Edwards for two days in August 1997 because he bit a guard at another Florida prison. Edwards then managed to slash the inside of his arms at the elbows, causing deep wounds. Guards hauled him from his cell, lying face down in pools of blood. Nurses bandaged him, and then the guards strapped him to a bed.

Edwards, who was serving two life sentences for the murder of his wife and a man in Tampa, bled to death 12 hours later from self-inflicted wounds. Robbins is a key witness for the prosecution in the federal trial of seven former prison guards charged with violating Edwards' civil rights.

Pediatricians Urge Telling Children if They Have AIDS Virus

CHICAGO - Doctors and parents of children infected with the AIDS virus should tell them and not try to hide the diagnosis, the nation's leading group of pediatricians says.

"It's inevitable that the child will find out and the only question is what's the timing that will be least harmful and most beneficial," said Dr. Alan R. Fleischman of the New York Academy of Medicine. Fleischman is one of the authors of a policy statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics published in the January issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

The 55,000-member group urged frankness toward HIV-infected children. It said doctors should try to work with the patient's parents to convince them their child should know the truth. The authors stopped short, however, of saying doctors should tell the child over the parents' objections, unless the patient is a sexually active teen.

The organization said the best way to tell the child is with both doctors and parents present. But it acknowledged some parents may want the doctor to break the news. Some doctors have gone along with parents who hope to keep youngsters from knowing they have HIV, the group said. The reasons include fear

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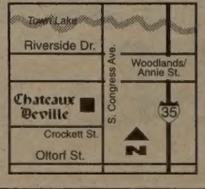

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their youngsters will lose their will to live, become angry with parents who infected them or disclose the information outside the family. The academy has not previously taken a position on the issue.

California School Board Rules Against Gay Teacher

BAKERSFIELD - A school board dismissed the discrimination complaint of a gay teacher who said 15 students were illegally transferred from his eighth-grade classes because their parents don't approve of his homosexuality.

The Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint after a closed hearing on Monday. Teacher Jim Merrick said he read a four-page statement at the meeting and answered a couple of questions from the board members.

The board decided that Superintendent Gerald Higbee and Principal Ernie Unruh followed district policy in removing the students from the class. The parents had complained that their children were becoming uncomfortable with Merrick's mannerisms and his public discussion of homosexuality.

Teen Sues Hospital Over Allegedly Disclosing He Is Gay

DOVER, Del. - Civil rights advocates have enlisted the help of religious leaders in their efforts to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"The fact that the religious community has become involved is going to make a difference this year," said Rep. William A. Oberle Jr., R-Beechers Lot, who sponsored a similar bill last year.

The Rev. Mark Harris, director of St. James Episcopal Church, Mill Creek Hundred, said Delaware clergy members are being encouraged to sign a petition in support of the bill. "Last year, we were surprised by the opposition to this bill. We are not going to let it happen."

Last year, Delaware's conservative Christian Coalition organized quick opposition to the bill, which passed a House committee vote, but never went to a vote before the full House. "A small but loud group of Christians frighten our representatives away," said the Rev. Jeffrey Krehbiel, pastor of West Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

The legislation would make it illegal to fire or refuse to hire a person based on sexual orientation. State law currently bars employment discrimination based on race, gender or national origin.

Idaho Court to Take Up State's First Case of Gay Adoption

BOISE — The Idaho Supreme Court will take up its first case of adoption involving a couple of the same sex later this month. The court's ruling could serve as a landmark in Idaho, where the rights of same-sex couples have been hotly debated.

The case involves a biological mother who wants her partner to adopt her child, said Linda Copple Trout, Idaho Supreme Court chief justice. Same-sex adoption is fresh territory for the Idaho court, she said. And it could plow new ground.

The case is drawing national attention as the first to link laws against same-sex marriage and laws on adoption. Lower courts rejected the adoption by extending the state ban on same-sex marriages to adoptions. A Supreme Court decision could come in the next four months.

Because the records are sealed, exact details of the case are not available. Courts in 18 states have permitted adoptions by same-sex couples. Three states – Florida, Colorado and New Hampshire – prohibit them.

Gay Philadelphia Cop Kills Self

PHILADELPHIA - The first city police officer recruited through a new campaign to reach out to the gay community shot himself to death a month after graduating from the police academy. Thomas Kalt Jr., 26, died of a single gunshot wound to the head from his own service revolver Wednesday afternoon. He had shot himself in a park near Independence Hall.

"He left two notes at his residence, the contents of which clearly denote suicide," said police Capt. Linda MacLachlin. "They indicate he was troubled by personal issues."

Kalt resigned from the force last week, an action that became effective the following day, police said. He was one of 326 officers to graduate from the academy Dec. 15. Kalt was still in possession of his service revolver and badge while counselors were talking to him about options short of resigning, such as taking a leave of absence.

National Newsline

Foster Parent Ban - An Arkansas state board in Little Rock voted last week to ban homosexuals from being foster parents, although there is no indication of how many gay people are acting as guardians. The contentious rule was approved 6-1 by the Child Welfare Agency Review Board, which refused to allow opponents to speak before voting. Before taking effect, the rule must undergo a 30-day comment period, during which public hearings are to be held around the state.

Gay Partners Refused – Pennsylvania State University will not offer benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian faculty and staff, the university announced this week. President Graham Spanier blamed opposition in the legislature. The school's faculty senate recommended last month that Penn State join other Big Ten schools and several hundred businesses in adopting same-sex benefits. Spanier, who was required to rule on the recommendation, said he reached his decision after consulting with legislative leaders.

Lesbian Adoption - Human Rights Campaign leader Elizabeth Birch and her significant other, Recording Industry Association of America lobbyist Hilary Rosen, have adopted Jacob and Anna, twins born on January 7 in Texas. The two women have announced that the children will be raised by nannies in their Chevy Chase, Maryland home. No specific legislative prohibition on placing children in homosexual households exists in Maryland.

Cincinnati Cancellation - The Cincinnati Enquirer published a letter in this morning's edition from the Association of Flight Attendants that said the union would not hold its 1999 annual meeting in Cincinnati as planned. AFA is moving its convention to a community that actively promotes human rights for all. "We cannot in good conscious hold our annual meeting in a city that denies protections we all should enjoy to those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual," said Patricia Friend, International President of the Association of Flight Attendants.

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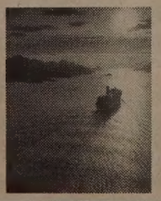

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After Cornerstone:

G/L Community Center Closes; Organizations Scatter

AUSTIN - When clicking onto its former website address at www.cornerstone-center.org, one is greeted with bad news. The site, with its familiar triangle logo followed by the words "Cornerstone Gay and Lesbian Community Center" now announces that Austin's glbt home base has closed its doors.

Cornerstone Gay and Lesbian Community Center spent its first - and last - three years at a highly visible, rainbow-flagged, spacious office building at 1117 Red River, a stone's throw from the University of Texas Campus. It had once housed several community organizations, among them Ad Hoc, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, Staying Negative, and Out Youth.

The telephone number for Ad Hoc, (the Alliance to Defeat Human Oppression and Condemnation,) formerly listed as a Cornerstone-based organization, has been reassigned to a private citizen.

Staying Negative, an AIDS Services of Austin-sanctioned support group encouraging members to remain HIV-free has largely disintegrated, so the Center's closing hasn't affected AIDS Services of Austin, according to Ross Callim, Gay Community Prevention Coordinator. "Not that many people came anyway," he added.

In Oct. 1998 *The Texas Triangle* reported Cornerstone's pending demise could be attributed to deficits in three major areas: finances, staffing, and building expenses, and that Cornerstone needed to raise the sum of $60,000 by Nov. 13, 1998 to maintain operation.

Glen Baum was one of Cornerstone's founding board members. Because the founding board members' terms came to an end in a staggered fashion, he was also one of the last of the remaining initial board members.

"When I left the board two years ago, there were approximately 250 sustaining members that would pledge, I think, like, $25 a month. The new board was charged with increasing the sustaining membership to a point that it would be totally self-sufficient from its sustaining membership. I don't think they were able to accomplish that. In fact, the sustaining membership went down," Baum told *The Texas Triangle* in a recent telephone conversation.

According to Baum, the board sought other means of fundraising. "They came up with a dance event that they could put on monthly. That was called Club Skirt. It was very successful; it just seemed to mushroom," Baum said, adding that it was not unusual for Club Skirt events to attract crowds of six to eight hundred people, raising as much as $40,000 to $50,000 annually.

"The Club Skirt group of people were like a sub-committee of the Cornerstone fundraising," Baum continued. "They took it upon themselves to decide that they didn't like all of their hard work and money that they were earning going to overhead costs - you know, the rent on the building, utilities, and stuff like this." According to Baum, Club Skirt organizers thought that the money should be donated directly "...to more social type things: Maybe one time they had a dance - donate all the money to AIDS Service, the next time donate it to this charity," he said.

After breaking away from Cornerstone, it was necessary for organizers of Club Skirt to affiliate themselves with another local 501(c)(3) organization so that Club Skirt events might continue to operate under a non-profit umbrella. Currently, proceeds from Club Skirt events are donated to the United Court of Austin. As a 501(c)(3) organization, United Court of Austin's sole purpose is taking care of the needs of our community that may be otherwise overlooked. It is one of seven courts in Texas and one of more than sixty in U.S., Canada and Mexico.

"It looks good for the United Court of Austin, because they are in competition with all the other chapters around the country and Canada for whoever brings in the most fundraising. [But] the Cornerstone was left in the lurch without any fundraising, and no sustaining members of any consequence," Baum lamented.

At press time, phone calls made by The *Texas Triangle* to United Court of Austin had gone unreturned. Calls to Cornerstone's new telephone number are referred to Metropolitan Community Church of Austin (MCCA), also caught in the Cornerstone crossfire.

"When the Cornerstone found the building, they were a new, young community center and had no financials, and the leasing entity wanted a co-signer on the note. So the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin co-signed the lease on the building," Baum said. Baum further stated that the lease holder has indicated that MCC Austin remains libel for rent on the building, and will be sued if negligent in making payments. It is expected MCCA will maintain its administrative offices at the 1117 Red River location until the building can be leased to a new tenant.

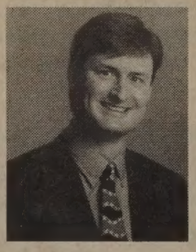
The congregation continues to hold 7pm Saturday services at First Unitarian Church at 4700 Grover. In 1998 MCC Austin purchased ten acres of land on South First St., known to the congregation as Freedom Oaks, where a new sanctuary will be built in 1999. Yet, Baum expressed disappointment at Cornerstone's demise.

"There were still some at the end - the die-hards - that believed in the vision and the mission that the Cornerstone, but very few," lamented Baum. "Not enough to make the rent on the building."

Michael Hampton is president of Hampton Environmental, Inc. a consulting firm specializing in air quality issues and commercial tenant at the 1117 Red River location since Cornerstone's inception. He expects to have transferred his business back to a home office by the end of January. "I probably would have stayed, just because I have been a supporter of the idea of a community center. I don't really need an office; I've worked out of my home a number of times, and I'm just going back to doing that again," Hampton said.

Hampton said though the center's demise saddened him, it did not surprise him. "I sort of saw it coming," he said, adding "I had always hoped that it would be more than just a building, but unfortunately it never really clicked, I think. That's just the way it goes. I'm not sure that the Austin gay community is going to be willing to give something like that another chance or not, but hopefully they will."

If you are HIV+ and considering selling your life insurance policy, consider this...



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Mënaji for Men Comes to Dallas

by Nancy Ford
TRIANGLE Features Editor

Men wearing makeup - it's not just for RuPaul anymore. Starting Jan. 15, Bachrach, located in Dallas' Northpark Mall will offer Mënaji, the professionally developed line of skin care and grooming products for men. Additionally, developer and founder Michele Probst will be available on site at Bachrach to consult with customers on January 15 and 16.

Michele Probst.

"Bachrach is a perfect opportunity for us, because people who shop at Bachrach care about how they look," Probst concluded. "And you wear your face every day." An internationally known makeup artist, Probst boasts ten years' experience in fashion photography, television, film, and video. Her many male clients pushed her into creating the Mënaji line of skin care and grooming products for men.

"They kept asking me what they could do on their own," she explains. "What could they use to cover a blemish or a scratch? Well, there weren't any products out there made specifically for men. That's why I started Mënaji."

It appears that Probst's timing is perfect. Estimates indicate that American men spend $9.5 billion a year on their appearance. Men's grooming products alone generate $3.3 billion in sales, with projections that this market will grow a minimum of 11% in three years, (according to the Sept. 9, 1996 issue of *Fortune* Magazine.) Further, according to statistics from the American Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASPRS), the number of cosmetic surgery procedures performed on men increased 62.6%, from 31,911 in 1992 to 51,887 in 1997.

Mënaji's official product line includes 911 Eye Gel, Medicated Lip Balm, Hydrator Aftershave, Glycolic Skin Toner, the Camo Concealer, and The Masque. The products have been developed in consultation with dermatologists and chemists to enhance the natural healing properties of men's skin. All are developed from naturally derived ingredients, and developed using no animal testing.

Probst is very enthusiastic about bringing Mënaji to the metroplex. "We have a website, and we get a ton of hits from the Dallas area, simply from the few ads that we ran in *Texas Triangle.* Dallas is an intelligent, cosmopolitan, trend-setting city," Probst said. "We consider ourselves trend-setters as well because we're the first."

While standing in line at the Bachrach make up counter, don't be surprised if you run into Dallas Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman. He, along with Vice President Al Gore, musician Peter Frampton, Evander Holyfield and Jay Leno, are counted among Probst's clients.

Mënaji is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee where Probst launched the line nearly three years ago. Since that time Mënaji products have been made available at select men's stores, salons, and through dermatologists and plastic surgeons. For more information call Mënaji toll-free at 1-888-636-8990 or access the website at www.menskincare.com.

Caring Friends Center Executive Director Celebrates 60th Birthday

Bra pads. Pedialyte. Ladies' head scarves and turbans. Light bulbs. Fungal creams. All are items one would not normally find on a birthday wish list - unless, of course, the birthday boy in question is Jerry Lynn.

Lynn, with the help of a few, well...caring friends, founded Dallas' Caring Friends Center in late 1998. Last week the Center's Board of Directors invited the community to celebrate Lynn's 60th birthday at the Caring Friends Center. Located at 5029 Lemmon Ave., the Center assists people living with HIV/AIDS and women with breast cancer.

In lieu of gifts, Lynn requested that guests bring a non-food item for the Center's Dan Flohr Emporium. "Our store is unbelievably busy," said Lynn enthusiastically. "In the two months we're open, we have 400 people shopping there. It's more than we ever expected, so we're needing to beef it up." Open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, the Emporium is stocked with donations of non-perishable necessities that clients can not obtain with food stamps.

On Tues., Jan. 26, in conjunction with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center AIDS Prevention Project, Caring Friends Center will offer free HIV/AIDS testing. "We're doing it in the evening from 5pm to 7pm, so people that are working can do it," Lynn explained. Testing and counseling can be conducted either anonymously or confidentially, with results available in seven to ten days. To schedule an appointment, or for more information call Jerry Lynn at Caring Friends Center at 214-219-7300.

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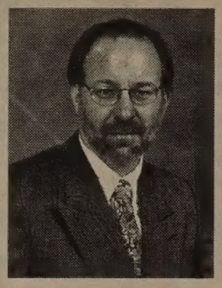

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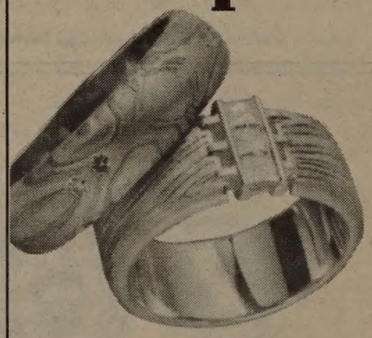

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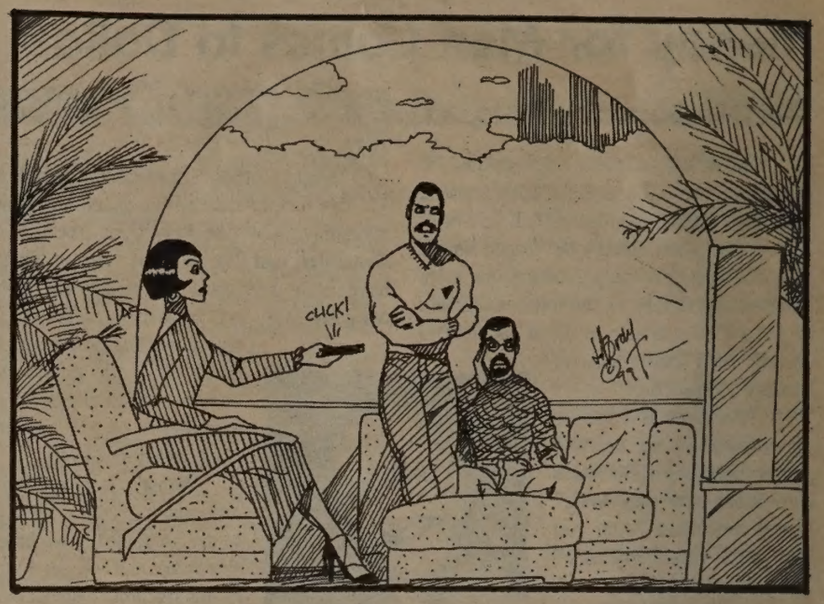

Amanda

Amanda B. Recondwith
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We were so impressed with the self-importance of our Senate last week when they began the impeachment trial for President Clinton, Dear Fans. We had never seen so many hypocrites and whining ninnies look so sober or act with so much dignity as they talked endlessly about the gravity of the "Moment." While watching some of the proceedings at Paradise Cyber-bar, we were amazed that Kay Bailey Hutchison managed to get her hair done before the trial. One of the other patrons had the nerve to say that Trent Lott literally oozed charm, which we merely decided could be cured with a good antibiotic and a regular change of underwear.

Yes, Dear Fans, our government is in full swing. Your hard-earned and quickly-snatched tax dollars are showing you just exactly what the United States government is really good at besides quickly snatching your hard earned dollars.

Far be it for Amanda to interpret the Constitution, which was created by a bunch of wealthy slave-raping, Indian-killing, adulterous, sexist 18th century males in silk stockings, high heels and powdered wigs. By today's standards, that document would not only never have been ratified; it simply wouldn't have come to the floor for debate at all! Trent Lott would have shot it down with his Yowsah Alabamy musket. But then, Alabamy and Jawjah and Mississippeee were barely in existence at the time so perhaps some civilized legislation would have passed after all. Loosiana had Nawlins, but that was the sex-pot decadent pirate's lair it has always been and wasn't taken seriously by the godly Yankees up in Philadelphia.

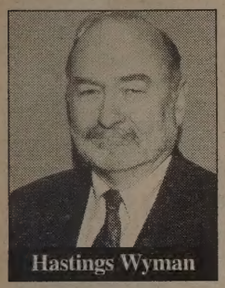
While watching the impeachment trial, Amanda cannot help but remember what the Chinese say to those they truly hate: "May you live in INTERESTING times." These are perhaps the most interesting times of all for us. While the Third World busily develops nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and spends its last rupes buying rockets from a defunct Russia, we get to watch a bunch of running dog lackies (one of the few truly great phrases to come out of the Chinese Cultural Revolution) slowly gyrate over their own dignity and wallow in their own self-importance. We nearly shot an olive through our Tiffany window when Phil Gramm gutterly drawled about the historic significance of the "Moment." Yes, Dear Fans, they're all so completely besotted with themselves, they just can't stand it. And you know you're in deep do-do when the networks turn to the likes of Phil Gramm for historical erudition because he was supposedly a history professor - like he was supposedly a college graduate, or supposedly a Democrat at one time, or supposedly not screwing around on his first wife. Deep do-do indeed. The "Moment" has them all agog as they see themselves reflected in the cameras before them. They see themselves on video screens as they talk, you know. As they're talking, they're looking at themselves the way we're looking at them, and they know we're watching, and they're so filled with the thrill of celebrity and self-importance and the gravity of the "Moment," that they're missing the one most important thing of all.

No one is watching. No one cares. Regardless of the outcome, we all know what the real issue is, and millions of us don't need to watch these intellectual pygmies strut before our screens to know that we're going to vote every last single one of them out of office in the next election. Then, Dear Fans, the "Moment" will be OURS.

Capital Letters

2000 Senate Present Opportunities for Gay Gains

With a number of right-wing senators elected in the GOP's 1994 landslide up for re-election, the 2000 U.S. Senates race offer unusually good prospects for pro-gay candidates. The makeup of the U.S. Senate is particularly important to gay people. In addition to being half the battle on passing legislation such as the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw job bias against gays, the upper chamber decides whether to confirm presidential appointments of openly gay men and women to federal posts. For example, last year the Senate failed to confirm President Clinton's nomination of openly gay businessman James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg, because the majority leadership wouldn't bring his confirmation up for a vote.


Hastings Wyman

Currently, Republicans hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, but Democrats have an excellent chance of winning control in 2000. That's because 19 GOPers but only 14 Democrats are up for election in 2000, creating more opportunities for Democrats. Moreover, many of the Republican incumbents are freshmen conservatives who were elected in 1994 and may not fare so well this go-round. Some observers believe that if Democrats win control of the Senate and keep the White House, an openly gay man or lesbian will be appointed to the cabinet by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Here's an overview of the currently germinating U.S. Senate contests of particular interest to the gay community.

Ted Kennedy (MA)

Friends: Almost all of the 14 incumbent Democrats up next year have pro-gay records. Seven, however, are more equal than others. Dianne Feinstein (CA), Daniel Akaka (HI), Paul Sarbanes (MD), Ted Kennedy (MA), Bob Kerrey (NE), Frank Lautenberg (NJ) and Chuck Robb (VA) each rated 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign legislative scorecard. All seven are expected to run again and most are early reelection favorites. Two could get major challenges from pro-gay GOP women. In Maryland, U.S. Rep. Connie Morella may run against Sarbanes, and in New Jersey, Gov. Christie Todd Whitman might - or might not - oppose Lautenberg. But Virginia's Robb faces a major challenge from the Right. Former Gov. George Allen (R), a social conservative, has already announced his candidacy and leads Robb in opinion polls.

Two Republican Senators are HRC 100 percenters. Rhode Island's John Chafee, 76, is a good bet for reelection now that idealistic U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D) has taken himself out of the race to run the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Other Democrats are looking at the race, but aren't on the A-team. Vermont's Jim Jeffords, another pro-gay GOPer, is strong unless Gov. Howard Dean (D) decides to run. Of interest: Vermont's openly gay auditor Ed Flanagan (D) may run against Jeffords, setting up an increasingly familiar dilemma for gay voters: Stick with a straight friend, or go for one of our own.

Foes. Four incumbent Republican Senators up for reelection next year are HRC zeroes - Jon Kyl (AZ), Rod Grams (MN), Trent Lott (MS) and John Ashcroft (MO). Two are favored for reelection. In Arizona, freshman Kyl has no major challenger on the horizon and in Mississippi, Majority Leader Lott is a lead-pipe cinch. However, two other incumbents with anti-gay voting records are very vulnerable. In Minnesota, several Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidates are already raising money to oppose Grams - and don't count out Gov. Jesse Ventura's Reform Party, which may field a candidate. In Missouri, Christian conservative Ashcroft, who has given up trying to run for president, could face a strong challenge from Gov. Mel Carnahan (D).

Hastings Wyman has been a DC insider for more than three decades. He publishes Southern Political Report, a non-partisan biweekly political newsletter. He can be reached care of this publication or at HWymanSPR@aol.com. For more of Capital Letters, visit www.gay.net

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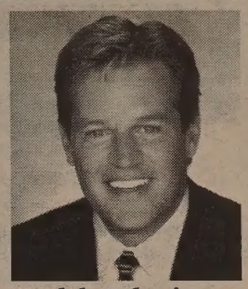
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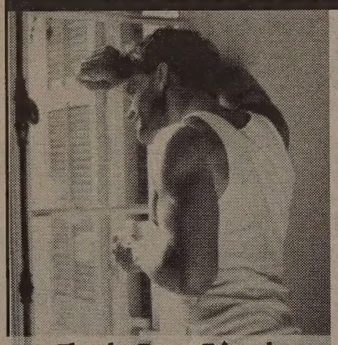
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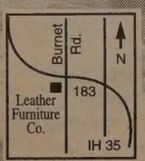

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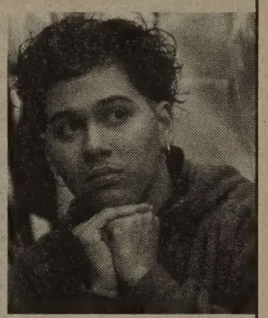
A new study of immune-enhancing therapy for HIV



What is the study?
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What is IL-2?
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Memo from the Future?

Jesus may well have been a Capricorn, but Kat is a Sagittarius - a December Kitty. I received a wonderful birthday present this December. My girlfriend took me to see one of Quentin Crisp's performances at Stages Theater in Houston.

Katrina C. Rose

'Tis a measure of my outness that I would actually request to see such a performance when she asked me where I'd like to go for my birthday. 'Tis a measure of my mellowed-outness compared to years gone by that I would request to see any performance by any ninety year-old man on my birthday - or any other day (of course, I forgot to check - I didn't miss a Dead Kennedys reunion tour or anything during early December, did I?).

I also received a faboo Xmas present this year. Uh, no - I haven't converted (to or back to anything), but whenever an Xmas (or Hanukkah or Solstice or Kwaanza) present is offered, I accept. (And, yes - I do reciprocate.)

And what was this present that I'm so eager to tell everyone about?

A TARDIS. What's a TARDIS, you ask? If you're a Dr. Who fan, you don't need to ask. But, for the non-enlightened, TARDIS stands for "Time and Relative Dimension in Space." Basically - its a time machine.

The typical TARDIS is designed to blend into whatever surroundings it might materialize. It knows how to assimilate. The actual device that allows a TARDIS to do this is a chameleon circuit. However, the chameleon circuit in the good Doctor's TARDIS has been malfunctioning since 1963. Consequently, due to a visit to England then, that TARDIS is stuck in the form of a British police call box.

Mine seems to be stuck in the form of a cat box. Go figure.

I took my time, space & dimension buggy out for a spin this week, just a few years into the future to see if anyone manages to blow up the planet before I manage to pay off my student loans.

It looks like I'll have plenty of time to make the loan creditors happy (or unhappy as the case is looking to be.) I must confess, though: I was also a bit naughty while I was playing around in the future. I snatched some people's mail.

But I can't be prosecuted for it. After all, it hasn't happened yet. Law-gotta love it.

Speaking of law, I thought I'd share with all of you something that I pulled out of the mailbox of a person who will apparently be trying to move on to the private sector after a stint in the activism world:

Dear Ms. Birch,

We appreciate your interest in our law firm. Your resume is impressive. You should be proud of your accomplishments. However, we are unable to offer you a position at this time and, in all likelihood, will be unable to do so in the future.

Please rest assured that our decision has nothing to do with your sexual orientation. Although the Employment Non-Discrimination Act was signed into law last year by President Brown, courts interpret the Act to allow employers to continue to use gender non-conformity as an employment criterion.

Our firm believes that gender-variance in any form is disruptive to a law firm work environment. Again, although your qualifications are impressive, it deeply pains me to inform you that we have determined that the choice of clothing and hairstyle that you are often seen exhibiting is a statement of gender non-conformity. Consequently, we do not feel that you would be a wise addition to our firm.

We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Billy Bob Bigot, Esq.
Chairman, Hiring Sub-Committee For Avoiding Laws That Mandate Equality Good Ol' All-American High-paying White Male Heterosexual Christian Law Firm, L.L.P.

Bummer, eh Liz?

Yep, it looks like that big, bad HRC-consecrated version of ENDA, the one that doesn't consider transgendered people worthy of being covered by that big ol' yellow equal sign, is capable of biting anyone - even someone who thinks that she'll be covered by said trans-excluding version of ENDA.

Oh well. That's what you get for biting the hands that threw the first stones at Stonewall.

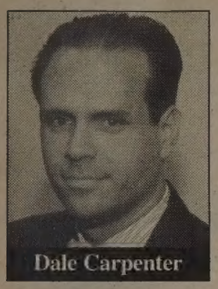
The good news is that this particular version of the future can be altered. Elizabeth Birch and all the rest of you homosexual trans-excluders have time to repent - to wise up and back inclusion of gender identity (or "gender expression", "perceived gender" or whatever phraseology is most palatable) in ENDA and every other "human rights" proposal.

The jobs you save may be your own.

Katrina C. Rose is an attorney in Houston and is a board member of the Bar Association for Human Rights, the Texas Association for Transsexual Support and the Gulf Coast Transgender Community.

OutRight

The Triumph of Will


Dale Carpenter

Less than a year after the demise of "Ellen", a remarkable triumph for gay civil rights is occurring week after week on national television. The success is both a reflection of improving cultural attitudes about gays and a (sly) contributor to that change. There are lessons in it for the gay civil rights movement that go well beyond presenting a formula for TV ratings success. Yet it seems that almost no one is noticing.

"Will & Grace", the prime-time sitcom that premiered this season, features Will Truman (Eric McCormack), a gay attorney, who lives with Grace Adler (Debra Messing), a heterosexual interior designer. The show is critically acclaimed because it is smart and funny. But more importantly for its long-term prospects, it appears to be a mild ratings success. It is currently beating its competitors in its Tuesday time slot.

Unlike "Ellen", this show does not preoccupy itself with scoring hits in the culture wars by emphasizing the lead character's homosexuality and struggle against discrimination. Will is openly gay, and unapologetic about it, but he is not a swishy stereotype and does not live his life in an all-gay milieu. The role of flamboyant queen is left for his hilarious friend, Jack McFarland (Sean Hayes). Will has a normal life with a normal set of problems. He just happens to be gay.

But before you dismiss "Will & Grace" as a bland, do-nothing, soulless sitcom, take a closer look at the impact it is having. In one episode this season, Will baby-sat for the children of a rich Texas friend. In other words, a conservative Texas millionaire entrusts his children to the most responsible person he knows - a gay man. McCormack summed up the implications, telling a newspaper recently: "That's an amazing thing to tell America. I never thought of it as remotely subversive, and [the producer, who is himself gay] hadn't written it that way. It was only as we were doing it, we realized it was amazing."

Compare this sort of unselfconscious shattering of myths (in this case, the stereotype of gays as sexual predators to whom one would never entrust children) to the preachiness that "Ellen" served up in her final season. Thirteen of the 21 episodes in the final season of "Ellen" had a predominately gay theme. DeGeneres herself admitted that she'd rather be a "pioneer" than be renewed. What started as a witty comedy ended as a weekly civil rights lecture.

Although she undoubtedly helped blaze a trail for others, DeGeneres forgot that the rest of the world does not know, or particularly care about, gay concerns. A serious discussion of gay issues has no intrinsic interest for mainstream America. Gay issues are interesting to Americans only insofar as they can be translated into familiar terms.

"Ellen" failed to make gays understandable - and therefore likable and therefore funny - because the show failed to make gays fully human. "Gay," in Ellen's world, became a political cause. DeGeneres famously declared on the cover of Time magazine: "Yep, I'm gay." Yet, as Ellen, she seemed to say: "Yep, I'm gay first and human second." That is backward. It is bankrupt as a political strategy, wrong as a sociological observation, and impotent as a rib-tickler.

"Will & Grace", on the other hand, succeeds at foiling prejudice because it is not really trying to. It is not forcing the issue on the unwilling masses. Yet despite all of the show's subtlety, I imagine that on the night millions of Americans watched an openly gay man babysit those children there was more erosion of anti-gay prejudice than has ever been accomplished by angry chants of "We're here! We're queer! Get used to it!"

So why have gay advocates avoided the show? I suspect there are two reasons. First, unlike DeGeneres, McCormack is not himself gay. That makes him seem less "authentic" to those who would rather see one of "our own" on the screen. Of course, we would hate to see gay actors type-cast so that they could only play gay roles. Why then should straight actors be confined to straight roles? Witnessing a straight person play a sympathetic gay character is at least a step forward from the days of "La Cage Aux Folles" and "Cruising", when straight actors played pathetic or menacing gay characters.

Second, the very fact that Will, with his implicit I'm-just-an-ordinary-guy message, is thriving where the obtrusive "Ellen" failed, is a rejection of the in-your-face activism that has dominated gay politics since Stonewall. No doubt it dismays some gay advocates that the producers of "Will & Grace" have not yet given Will his first on-screen kiss, same-sex date, or frolic between the sheets.

But then that's what offers "Will & Grace" the chance to make a real difference in the long run. Although confrontational activism has had its place in our movement, "Will & Grace" is pointing towards a new style of politics that can help get us to the next level. Again, McCormack says it best: "We want this show to evolve slowly but surely so that eventually even your mother there in Texas is saying, Boy, I hope that Will gets some loving this week.' That would be an amazing step."

For a movement that must change hearts more than laws, it sure would be.

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is a national regional director of Log Cabin Republicans. He is the winner of two Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com

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MY STORY

By Donna Garrett

We were six kids living in the subs.
I can remember mom bathing us two at a time in the tub.

I was just a child and could see no wrong,
But in looking back I could see things were wrong all along.

Birmingham, Alabama was where I was raised.
Wherever you saw the American flag the Confederate flag waved.

Most of my childhood, I didn't know what that meant,
But as I got older I began to get a hint.

The Confederate flag, a symbol of a united league,
The more I learned about it the more I was intrigued.

It represented a way of life in the South,
A way of life that left Black people out.

There was much oppression in those days,
Affected me and my family in many ways.

I can remember getting on the bus,
Moving to the rear, the place designated for us.

I can remember stopping before the half-way point,
Mom jerked my arm so hard nearly separated the joint.

Momma used to take us to a downtown store,
We had to get our food in the basement at the back door.

No place to sit, just get it and go,
We would sit at the bus stop enjoying our hot dogs so.

Pop didn't want us to go to a public school.
He said blacks attended only and it was inferior as a rule.

He figured a good education was the key,
So a private school would be the lot for my sisters and me.

When I reached high school in the fall of '64,
Things were getting hot and segregation had to go.

I could remember neighbors whispering in the kitchen,
Discussing someone whose family was grieving because of a lynching.

One day I sneaked and attended a demonstration,
My parents had forbidden me of any participation.

I'll never forget what I saw that day,
Dogs eating at people and dragging them away.

I grew hysterical and started to run,
Trying to figure out which direction did I come.

I was really moving fast, looking for that bus,
When I saw some fireman pointing some hoses at us.

The man in front of me hit the side of a building with a thud,
From every opening on his head, there was gushing blood.

At home, I told no one, I was in a state of shock.
Even until this day, in my mind these memories are locked.

Governor George Wallace did something that had never been done before.
To keep blacks from entering, stood and blocked
University of Alabama's campus door.

Alabama was blazing, emotions and tensions were running high.
In our struggle for freedom, we had captured the world's eye.

This prompted a move from Bobby Kennedy,
to put federal troops on the scene.
This may be happening in this country, But by the world
it must not be seen.

My people struggled against their oppressors
when they were shackled and slaved.
After all the struggling in the sixties, I figured by the nineties
we would have it made.

Not so, the fight goes on to assure everyone of their human rights.
Maybe one day we will see a day when we no longer have to fight.

The Pit of Segregation

A Houston Poet Ponders How 60's Unrest Colors Her Story Today.

By Stephen R. Underwood
TRIANGLE Staff

Donna Garrett, a 47-year-old poet living in Houston for some fifteen years, was just thirteen years old when Martin Luther King set up shop in her hometown of Birmingham, AL. King arrived there in the spring of 1963 after a tough campaign in Albany, GA., where his strategy of non-violent protest failed to persuade the public or the police to bury the ghost of Jim Crow laws, a legal code mandating equal but separate facilities based on race. Society in the South was separate all right, but nowhere equal. The civil rights leader launched a civil disobedience operation in Albany in 1961, packing hundreds of demonstrators into filthy jails. But once the bail money evaporated, protesters pulled away from the sizzling furnace of confrontation. Birmingham, in the heart of Dixie, graduated to ground zero in the ever-escalating crusade to end de facto and de jure segregation in the South. And little did the young Ms. Garrett know that she would find herself near a riot that would mark a turning point in the public's tarrying complacency for social equality.

In part, the civil rights struggle in the courts began when the Supreme Court upheld Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, a case which affirmed the constitutionality of separate but equal railroad cars for whites and blacks. In his dissent, Justice John Marshall Harlan, a former slave owner himself, argued that separate but equal creates a psychology of inequality that harms blacks. History proved him right. To make matters worse, the Supreme Court then upheld Williams v. Mississippi, a scheme that prevented many blacks from voting or serving on juries, two years later.

With Southern Democrats returning to power shortly after the Civil War, Dixie states began a campaign to disenfranchise African Americans by eliminating the strides they had made in voting and public office after Emancipation and the Rebel union's defeat. Most states there enacted poll taxes and literacy tests as roadblocks to voting, requirements that many poor African Americans could not pay or pass. And the effects on political power were staggering. In Louisiana, for example, 130,344 African Americans were registered to vote in 1896. But in 1900, after the state passed a new constitution, that number dwindled to 5,320.

Moreover, Jim Crow laws ranged from the arcane to the insane. A 1914 Louisiana law segregated entrances to circuses; a 1920 Mississippi law made it illegal to publish or advocate arguments in favor of social equality or interracial marriage; and a Kentucky law made it illegal for any white child to be issued a school book that had been held by a African American child, or visa versa. By World War II, the South was fully segregated. Schools, restaurants, hotels, drinking fountains, buses, colleges, prisons, graveyards and churches were either for whites or blacks -- but never for both. Even in courtrooms, blacks and whites swore to tell the truth on separate Bibles.

Besides the government-sponsored discrimination, the Ku Klux Klan, a white terrorist organization formed by a former Confederate general in the winter between 1865 and 1866, stepped up its oppression of former slaves when Federal troops were withdrawn after Reconstruction, the twelve-year occupation of the South by the North. With military protection dwindling after 1877, the KKK rained terrorism towards politicians, black landowners and whites who supported the Republican Party or racial progress. Back then, their methods were ruthless: crosses were burned on the hills near those they sought to intimidate, and when that didn't work, the Klansmen flogged, mutilated or murdered defenseless opponents. All this was done, the Klan claimed, to protect white supremacy and white womanhood.

While the tide of Klan membership ebbed and flowed in the 1900s through internal scandal and government inquiries, George Corley Wallace, a Dixiecrat and fierce states' rights advocate, was sworn in as Alabama's governor on Jan. 14, 1963 with the largest vote in state history. On that cold winter day, the political underdog turned rising star declared in an inaugural speech written by Asa Carter, a known Klansman, that Alabama would enforce "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." With a deep trench drawn in the shifting sands of fairness, Wallace hardened himself for a confrontation with the Federal government should it try to enforce the desegregation mandates of Brown v. Board of Education, a 1954 Supreme Court ruling making the practice of separate but equal in education unconstitutional. In effect, the Court overturned the errors it made in Plessy. But make no mistake: Wallace would have none of it. "He had such a hard line he was always considered the enemy of our people," says Ms. Garrett. "That's the way we looked at him. That's the way my parents looked at him. He was someone to be feared."

At first, Ms. Garrett's parents protected her from the racial stew spilling over into Birmingham streets after King's mooring. "We were never allowed to go anywhere without chaperones," she says. "We never went anywhere but to school and church, school and church. I thought my daddy was so strict, but actually, he feared for our lives." No doubt, though, the fear was real. Birmingham, a modern city in the Jones Valley of northern Alabama, nestled near the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains, became priority one for King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of black ministers formed in 1957 to promote racial integration. The city became the incubator of "Project C," a series of demonstrations inaugurated on April 3, 1963, to force desegregation onto the

political and social landscape. Bull Connor, the police commissioner in Birmingham and the spine of racial oppression there, eyed the cohorts of journalists gathered to report on the march. He allowed the demonstrators to protest unmolested. But that tolerance would soon evaporate like a dew drop in a desert. Eight days later, a state court banned further demonstrations in a move to make King's actions illegal. King disobeyed that order, and found himself thrown in jail on April 12, which was Good Friday. From there, King penned his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," where he answered calls from other ministers wanting to wait for social progress. "When you are forever fighting a denigrating sense of 'nobodyness' -- then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait," King wrote. "There comes a time when ... men are no longer willing to be plunged into an abyss of injustice where they experience the bleakness of corroding despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience."

Restlessness escalated in Birmingham, and Donna Garrett found herself smack dab in the middle of it. Bull Connor stepped up police enforcement against the protests. "These (segregation) laws are still constitutional," Connor warned, "and I promise you that until they are removed from the ordinance books of Birmingham and the statue books of Alabama, they will be enforced in Birmingham to the utmost of my ability, by any lawful means." In a swift change of strategy, King and other civil rights leaders decided to involve school children in the demonstrations. The reasoning behind that move was that it kept fathers and mothers out of jail and on the job, preventing economic hardship from stifling the movement like it did in Albany. So, the next phase of Project C took place on May 6, 1963, with busloads of students assembling at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and marching over to Kelly Ingram Park for a demonstration. Thirteen years old at the time, Ms. Garrett was on a bus with classmates from Holy Family High, a private Catholic school, headed for the park. Her parents had forbid her from participating, but she decided to go anyway. "My dad told me, 'Don't take your ass down there.' But there was no fear in me, you know? It was just a trip. I was kind feeling like, 'oh, let's go. ' "

That escapade on a sunny spring day began innocently enough, but things changed quickly. As nearly 1,000 children gathered in the park, fire trucks and police cars pulled up to restore order, as if the children en masse could engender a riot. Bull Connor and his storm troopers arrived prepared with their restless German Shepherds in tow. Ms. Garrett assembled with the other schoolgirls hand in hand, three across, dressed in a white long-sleeve shirt and a navy blue pleated skirt. They moved closer to the festering park. Some children toyed with police: decoys ran in one direction to allow a larger crowd passage to downtown businesses. Angry, Connor struck back. Police attacked the crowd with nightsticks, bashing some agitators in the skull. Fire department hoses, with pressure powerful enough to tear the bark off trees, slammed some against walls and tore the clothes off others, leaving many bloodied and bruised. Then there were the dogs. Ruthlessly, the dogs were unleashed upon the largely peaceful protesters, sinking their sharp fangs deep into flesh that had only wanted freedom. Frightened, the scene shocked the young schoolgirl. "We turned the corner and it was on," Ms. Garrett says. "I remember being so scared, just unable to move. People were running and hollering and screaming." The priest accompanying them scurried the girls away. "Get back to the bus! Get back to the bus!" she remembers him saying frantically. "I didn't get hit by the water, but I saw a man get rolled, moving very rapidly."

The bus arrived back at the school about 3 p.m., not long before Ms. Garrett's mother pulled in to pick her up. The teenager never said a word about what happened at Kelly Ingram Park. "I understood why my dad didn't want us to participate," Ms. Garrett concedes. "It was really a dangerous thing, you know, but I didn't get it. I thought he was being mean. But he wasn't being mean, he was making sense."

On May 7, the protesters turned another page in the game plan of Project C, rattling Birmingham businesses with sit-ins and pray-ins. Angrier still, Connor shocked the nation with more the nightstick attacks, echoing the haunting rides of the white-sheet wonders who trotted through Rebel territory just shortly after the Civil War, terrorizing former slaves. The commissioner and his police force became for a moment "untouchable," hiding behind the thin veil of unjust laws that sanctioned the abuse of people by government, an institution that should have protected them instead.

Five years after that dark spring day, in the fall of 1968, Donna Garrett walked out into the light of day, attending Miles College, a historically black university, some five miles down the road from Birmingham. Leaving home was like a burst of freedom. For the first time, Ms. Garrett experienced life then like a lively butterfly emerging from the a prickly cocoon. During her tenure at Miles, Ms. Garrett met a young gay African American man in 1971 named Frederick Carter. She struck up a trusting friendship with him. Later, she decided to reveal a long-kept secret. "I really like girls," she told him, "as strange as that might sound." Unfazed, Mr. Carter responded, "Honey, you gay!" Being called gay confused Ms. Garrett. But that night, Mr. Carter clarified just exactly what he meant, shepherding her to a gay bar in Birmingham called the Out of Focus. Once inside, the festival of sexuality, the dancing, and the drinking amazed her. Suddenly, the forbidden sexual kaleidoscope blossoming within her converged sharply into a solid point. "For once in my life, I felt, my God, I'm not the only one. My parents had never ever spoken about gays. I never had any idea that there were other people who had feelings as I felt. That was my coming-out period, and I've been on a jubilation path ever since." Still, she remembers overhearing her parents debating her sexuality one afternoon, deciding then to accept the inevitable. "They knew all along," she says, "but they wouldn't tell me."

Four years later, with a college degree in hand, Ms. Garrett went job hunting in Birmingham on a rainy day in 1975, getting soaked by the afternoon showers. Hot-footing it to a storefront awning to get out of the rain, she noticed a help-wanted sign in a display window. "Poster-board Packer Wanted," it said. With the cold rain dripping off her clothes, Ms. Garrett went in and applied. "You must really need a job to be out here in this weather," the store manager observed. "I'm glad you came by, 'cause I needed somebody desperately." The store manager hired her on the spot. But sometime during the interview, he misunderstood Ms. Garrett's name -- he thought she said 'Donnis' instead of 'Donna.' And he thought that she was a man. For some reason, Ms. Garrett didn't correct him.

So, for the next year, Donna Garrett worked on a loading dock cloaked as a man, packing poster board into cardboard boxes and loading them onto wooden pallets. For the manager's part, it's easy to see why he miscued Ms. Garrett's gender. For one, she towers six foot, framed with broad shoulders. Her round, man-size face is largely absent of what most might consider a natural feminine disposition. Then there's her rich, low voice, both gentle and masculine sounding. Her clothes are men's clothes, usually jeans or pants and a long-sleeve button shirt. The disguise worked so well, in fact, that she used the men's restroom just like all the other guys. "You'd be surprised how men dog a woman in the restroom," Ms. Garrett remembers, pondering the seedy way men sometimes talk about sex. "They sit around and talk and tell it out. If they have sex with a woman, they'll tell some dog-gone body else. It was bizarre."

But the whole charade almost unraveled when Ms. Garrett saw a fellow co-worker named Jerry drinking at the Gizmo, another local gay bar. "Donnis! Donnis!" Jerry called across the room upon spotting her. The sighting stunned Ms. Garrett. Neither wanted to be outed. "You're not gonna tell them at work?" Jerry asked. "Oh, no, I'd never tell," Ms. Garrett said, "and don't tell them I'm a woman." That revelation shocked Jerry. Somehow, the man managed to keep that secret all along. But when the impersonator quit the loading dock, Jerry begged to reveal the successful deception to the clueless crew. Ms. Garrett said OK. Later, when she saw Jerry back at the bar, she asked how the men took the news. "You know what their main concern was?" Jerry asked. "They were trying to figure out how many times they were in the restroom with you."

George Wallace made himself the King Kong of segregation advocacy for almost a decade after Project C, but he would later repent from those policies based on race and rage, and later declare himself to be the original inventor of Reaganism. In his revisionist wanderings, Wallace claimed that his zeal for segregation was inspired by both the Constitution and the Bible, which he said, was misinterpreted as hatred for African Americans. But the apologies came too little too late. On May 15, 1972, while campaigning for the presidency, Wallace was wounded by three bullets shot by Arthur Bremer, a gunman frustrated by his failed attempts to kill Richard Nixon. Wallace was paralyzed for the rest of his life, cosigned to roll around in a shiny wheelchair, which turned off voters. That paralysis ended his chances to be president, but he would win the governor's mansion again in 1974 and 1982, this time appointing African Americans to high positions and meeting with civil rights leaders like the Rev. Jesse Jackson. It's a shame the light dawned at sunset for George Wallace. His incendiary rhetoric could have spared the lives of thousands of African Americans murdered and lynched through the 60s, and maybe have even spared the life of King himself.

It's been over thirty-five years since that spring of fear, and a hard, long road to the mountaintop of happiness for Donna Garrett. Today, she finds solace from the tyranny of the South's past, penning poems inspired by the civil rights embargo imposed upon African Americans by whites during King's non-violent crusades. She readily remembers the marching songs she chanted against Wallace. "We had a song 'We're not gonna let George Wallace turn us around,' " she sings in a gospel rhythm. "We sang those songs in church. We were not going to be turned around and deterred about what we were trying to do. And I'm telling you, black people came together. It was everybody's fight."

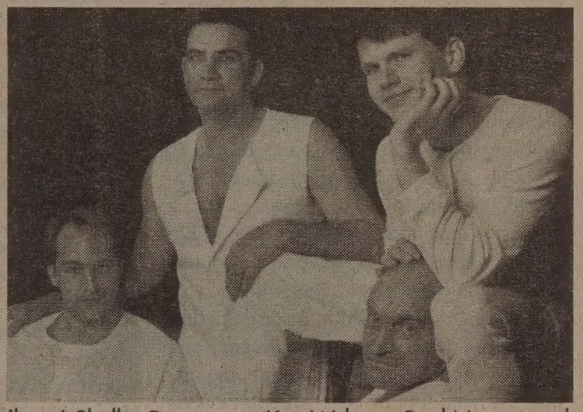
Donna Garrett is available for poem readings. She can be reached by email at D5001@aol.com or by phone at 713-942-2043.

"For once in my life, I felt, my God, I'm not the only one.... That was my coming-out period, and I've been on a jubilation path ever since."

Still Wilde About the Boys

By Arthur B. Cohan III
Contributing Writer

Some 103 years ago, Oscar Wilde, the Irish-born and educated writer, stood center stage in what was then-called "the trial of the century." He was tried and convicted for sodomizing Lord Alfred Douglas. For exercising the "love that dare not speak its name," he served two years in prison at hard labor, and died shortly after his release in 1900 a frail and dejected man. Only in death did he rise to the stars, belatedly recognized as a brilliant writer and witty social commentator. "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the Stars," Wilde once said. I definitely saw "stars" shinning brightly last Friday night at State Theater Company's production of "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" in Austin. Shortly after its New York off-Broadway debut in 1997, playwright Moises Kaufman's masterpiece became the third-most performed play in the United States during the 1997-98 season.



(l to r) Shelby Davenport, Ken Webster, Paul Norton and Jamison Driskill in State Theater Company's "Gross Indency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde."

The stage is set in the Old Baily Central Criminal Court in 1895. During the first trial, Wilde prosecutes Lord Marquees Queensbury (Michael Hankin), the father of Lord Alfred's lover (Guy Chandler Roberts), for libel. Discovering that his "unmanly" son was cavorting around London with Wilde, Lord Queensbury sets out to dissolve the friendship and expose Wilde for the "posing somdomite" he supposedly was. Boise (Wilde's nickname for Lord Alfred) encourages Wilde with a vengeance to force his father into court. The night after the historical opening of Mr. Wilde's play "The Importance of Being Earnest" at London's West End, Lord Queensbury busted into Wilde's club, The Albermarle, leaving a card which read, "To Oscar Wilde posing Somdomite." (The misspelling amused Wilde intellectually, but supported the brutal carelessness of the society that would eventually persecute him.) After discovering that four boys with whom he had sexual encounters had agreed to testify against him at the first trial, Wilde, under the advise of his lawyer Sir Edward Clarke (Alan Waldock), chose to dismiss his suit against Lord Queensbury, but all too late. Later, the state proceeds to prosecute Wilde for "gross indecency," which leads to conviction and prison. As Boise so accurately states it, "Oscar never tried to hide his homosexuality" –unless under legal fire. Wilde's "gutter" is founded on his pure inability to mortgage his own life as a Greek tragedy of sorts.

David Stahl's Wilde is an egotistical, witty and charming victim of society's morals, press and values. To say that Mr. Stahl's portrayal is fine would itself be a gross indecency itself: he's impressive. His presence brings an excitement to the stage that I found similar to that childlike adult sophistication portrayed by Gene Wilder in "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

To miss him in this production would simply be your loss. This actor's passion for his character allows him to embody Wilde's spirit with an expertise not to be missed.

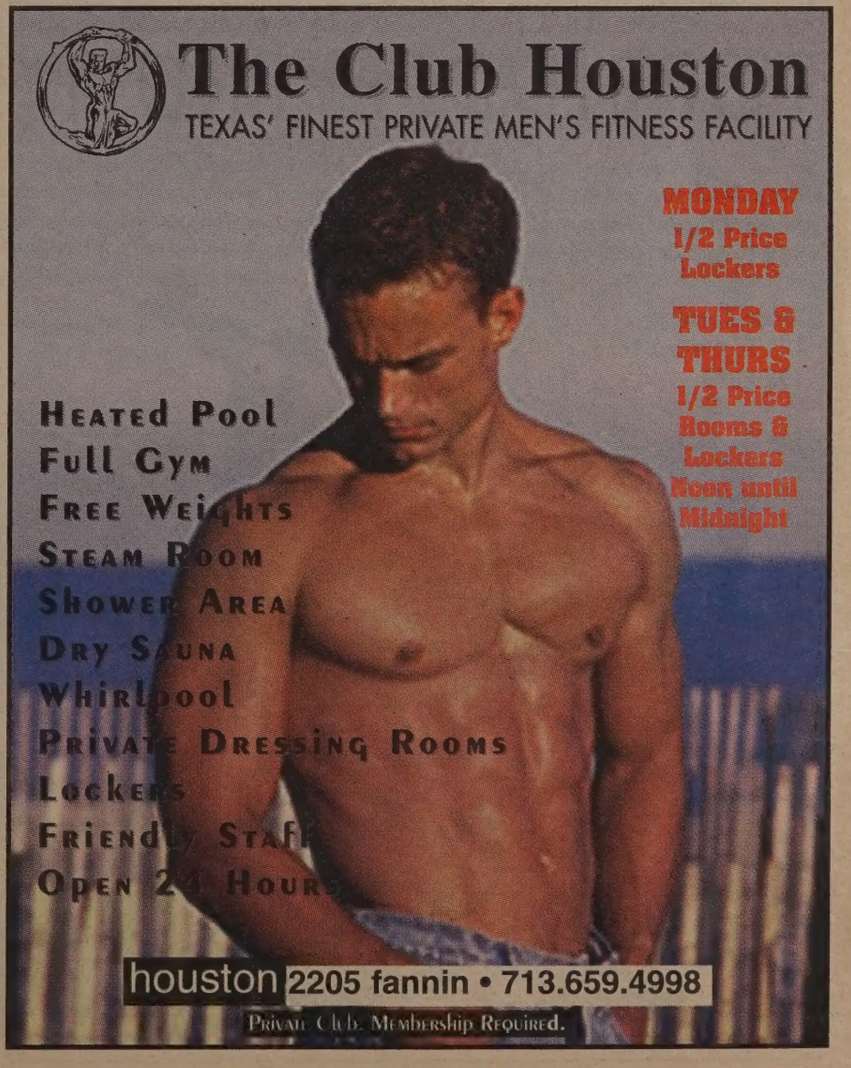
Mr. Waldock's voice is appeasing and his acting fulfills his requirement for this role. It would be a crime not to mention the splendid talents of Mr. Norton as well. His characterization of various personalities illustrates how an exemplary actor can transform himself to appear as several different persons in a single production.

The cast of men provided an enjoyable evening of learning and humor attached with some social commentaries about art, the press, and morals. Any history or literature buff would find this production full of Wilde's beautiful sentiments and observations a joy to view. A visually memorable moment occurs when Mr. Driskill throws on the headwrap with its glimmering tiara and re-enacts Queen Victoria's decree of the gross indecency law that remained on the books until 1967.

One of the most fascinating facts I learned was that on the day his trial began against him, over 600 men left England by boat when the average was close to 30. I left wondering if times have really changed, or do people prefer that homosexuals run away or just adhere to the don't ask-don't tell way of life.

Our Reviewer's Rating: A+

"Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" runs through Jan. 31 at the Rio Grande Campus of ACC, 1212 Rio Grande. Tickets: $18-$20, 512-472-5143.



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PARAMOUNT THEATRE

FRANK GORSHIN
BATMAN'S "THE RIDDLER"

Due to a scheduling conflict, **Milton Berle** has cancelled his performance originally scheduled for this evening. All tickets purchased for the Berle show will be honored or exchanged. Refund requests should be made at the point of purchase through February 28.
We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Tickets available at the Paramount Box Office (713 Congress) and Star Outlets, including Albertson's and Waterloo Records. **469-SHOW** (7469) **to charge.**
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Photo by Scott VanDyke

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Love, Like Money, Grows on Trees

By J.C. Michelak
TRIANGLE Staff

Theater LaB's production of "Shopping and Fucking" in Houston brings together five lost individuals in a world where relationships, trust and sex have been reduced to transactions. A young generation trained to believe that money is a god and consumerism a form of religious faith is increasingly alienated from natural feeling in this thought provoking production. Sex for money, money for sex. The price of thrills, the thrill of prices. The pain of pleasure, the pleasure of pain. It's all depicted here rubbing shoulders in this taut and grotty production set in a little London subworld. "Shopping and Fucking" is a shocking look at a corrosive, disposable world whose values have been determined by a disinherited generation.

Directed by Ed Muth, this production is riveting from the opening scene, primarily because of the stellar performances from its fine cast. The play opens with Lulu (Erin E. Kidwell) and Robbie (Dustin Ross) in their flat trying to get fellow roommate Mark (Wayne Wilden), a drug addict, to ingest some food. They succeed in their persuasion, although the food does not remain in Mark's but for a few seconds. Rather it is upchucked for all to see, followed by a catharsis from Mark that prompts him to check into a rehabilitation facility, thereby leaving Lulu and Robbie to fend for themselves. A difficult task, for Mark was their 'Rock of Gibraltar.'

The trio's relationship is not entirely platonic. Robbie is in love with Mark and the drama suggests that Robbie and Lulu have had intimate contact, but it is not clear whether Mark and Lulu have had intimate relations, although we later learn that Mark had sex with Princess Diana and Fergie at Tramps (a now defunct club formerly owned by Jackie Collins and her late husband) in LA. Meanwhile, following Mark's exit to drug rehab, the production moves in two directions. One focusing on Robbie and Lulu's struggles to make ends meet, the other on Mark's search for self-identity, which prompts him to seek liaisons that are purely transactional rather than emotional.

Both subplots bring two other characters into the fold: Brian (Daniel Treadway), who complicates Robbie and Lulu's life and Gary (Joshua Gary), who confuses Mark's self-identification process. Brian and Gary, however, are pivotal to the entire premise of this production as the conclusion cleverly reveals. The conclusion of this brilliant drama as it unfolds is captivating, although the subject matter is daunting. Ravenhill's script manages to incorporate the angst of these characters, their search for substance and their fear of reality, which he eventually forces them to confront. And throughout he manages to tackle subjects like AIDS, drug addiction, professional phone sex, sales and shopping. Each and every character is pivotal to the plot of the play, a plot that should not be revealed in its entirety because this play should be seen by the masses for its remarkable depiction of gritty realism. While "Shopping and Fucking" is disturbing at times, it succeeds because it defies you to leave the theater and not be able to continue thinking about it. Any movie or play that forces you to analyze it days after seeing it deserves accolades.

Wilden is brilliant in his portrayal of Mark. His performance is remarkable throughout and one of the reasons this play succeeds. His ability to force you to sympathize with what could, at best, be described as a pathetic and irritating individual is uncanny. The rest of the cast is also very good, with the exception of Daniel Treadway, who is adequate, primarily because he overacts throughout the entire production. It doesn't seem natural. Treadway is obviously a method actor, a form of acting that is mechanic and lacking in authenticity, albeit a norm for many of today's famous and not so famous actors. The problem with method acting is that it is not as convincing as an actor that makes you look past him or her and force you to believe they are really the character they are portraying. Throughout the production, the only thing visible when Treadway was on stage was Treadway and it was distracting.

Meanwhile, Kidwell, Ross and Gray (and especially Wilden) forced the audience to look past their obvious physical attributes (they are all beautiful specimens in their own right, including Treadway) and believe that they were the characters in the play. That's not an easy feat, yet they accomplished it with aplomb.

"Shopping and Fucking" is a great production thanks to its great cast and a must see for trend setting theater buffs. Without good actors, the play would not have the same depth or conveyance. Beware however that the subject matter and the realism of this production may not be for everyone. The play is emotionally draining and takes on heady subject matter. It contains strong language, nudity and highly suggestive, not to mention descriptive, sexual situations.

Our Reviewer's Rating: A-

"Shopping and Fucking" runs through Feb. 14 at Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets: 713-868-7516.

Sistersage's Horoscopes

Aries March 21st to April 20th
Everyone you know is talking about a special event that is coming up. You might receive an invitation to play a special role in a friend's impending celebration. You can't solve all the problems of everyone you love, no matter how genuinely devoted you are to them. A friend who is in a relationship crisis will ultimately have to make their own choices. You and a professional contact believe you are so compatible that your relationship could lead to romance or friendship.

Taurus April 21st to May 20th
A lost object turns up in quite an unusual place. Plans to make a large purchase require you to fine tune your budget. A new gourmet treat sends you into the kitchen so you can recreate it yourself. Household chores seem annoying at first, but when you get going, you begin to enjoy the progress you make. You may decide to indulge in something that makes you feel pampered and special. Irresistible winter sales tempt you to consider adding some new items to your wardrobe.

Gemini May 21st to June 20th
A self-centered friend who is constantly creating negative situations in their own life might benefit from your honest assessment of the reasons for such unhappiness. A first date feels more comfortable than you expected, because the two of you have mutual interests that help break the ice. A romantic partner really wants to persuade you to make a commitment now, and you try to decide if you feel that your future belongs with that person. Working hard makes you feel good about your progress.

Cancer June 21st to July 22nd
A big change is on your mind and you are working to make sense of all your options. Making a change in your life is always a little scary. If you envision yourself on that new path, you can discover all the blocks that are holding you back and break free from the fear. A romantic relationship with a business associate probably isn't a good idea, especially if it could jeopardize your career. Don't get into a power struggle or silly arguments no matter how much anyone tries to set you up.

Leo July 23rd to August 22nd
You think about the meaning of true love. You are searching for a love that really means something with a partner who would give their life for you and to whom you can devote your own life. You may feel that an ongoing relationship falls far short of that standard. If you look at the situation you may see your mate in a more favorable light, forgiving past short comings and looking toward a more positive future together. Avoid making promises you can't keep.

Virgo August 23rd to September 22nd
You want more of a love life now and may find yourself attracted to someone new to your group. Even though they are not your usual type, it is hard to resist the person because this attraction holds so much chemistry between you. Writing love letters appeals to you now, and this is such a quaint and memorable way to communicate. Online romances are also fun if you approach them with caution. You and your romantic partner share tender moments and discuss your future.

Libra September 23rd to October 22nd
You are dreaming of a love that is better than perfect. You are the heart and soul of romance, but now you are even more starry-eyed than usual where love is concerned. You will continue to focus on your love life until the person of your dreams comes along. You may find yourself in the grips of lightning attraction to just about everyone who crosses your path. You might start an ill advised romance simply because you have fallen for someone so different that you think it is kismet rather than a case of temporary insanity. Be careful, but have fun too.

Scorpio October 23rd to November 21st
You want to make your home as beautiful as possible by making household improvements and shopping for decorative items. Take responsibility for your life, whether it is good or bad. You can create whatever you want to experience as long as you acknowledge that you have created your current situation also. Remember if you can believe it, you will conceive it. Be sure to concentrate on things that are rewarding and relaxing and let go of chaos and unpleasantness in your life.

Sagittarius Nov 22nd to December 21st
You enjoy getting out to a broad variety of cultural events in your area. Social events are lively and entertaining. You may enjoy new art forms and choose to expose your friends to your new adventures. You may decide to go to movies and foreign films as well as the performing arts. Craft fairs and art shows provide an indoor place to have fun during the winter months. Your own creative ability is strong and you like the idea of creating something that expresses who you are.

Capricorn Dec 22nd to January 19th
You are tempted by a new lover. A romantic partner is one source of expenditure, but it would definitely be unwise to make any financial arrangements with someone who is a new love. It is also unwise to lavish money on someone who may very well be a gold digger. Dating can be very expensive if you always have to pay for two people. You want to enjoy life and there is nothing wrong with that, as long as you don't go overboard wasting money. Let your sweetheart treat you once in a while!

Aquarius January 20th to February 18th
You want to find true love. You believe in the highest from of love possible...even to the point where one person is willing to sacrifice their life for the other. The only problem is that you are a bit confused about the sort of partner who would inspire that degree of devotion in you. It is so easy to go overboard with all sorts of people who seem perfect but aren't. You want to spend time with fun and exhilarating people. You always pick companions who are a bit off-center. Keep on looking!!!

Pisces February 19th to March 20th
You dream of a long lost love. It is very easy to have amazingly romantic dreams whether you are dreaming of someone real from your past or the perfect love you hope to meet one day. You may catch yourself daydreaming about romance, but these activities won't accomplish anything productive. You may want to try your hand at writing romance novels. You may also be involved in an online romance! This will allow your creative passion to pour out! Let yourself go!

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TEXAS

DEC. 18 THROUGH DEC. 30

AUSTIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bisexual Women's Support Group meets the third Tuesday of every month. Bi-curious are welcome. Info: 512-370-9573.

There's more than one way to see the Wizard if you show up for The OZ Parties, a social group for HIV+ people. Join in on the Mardi Gras fun Feb. 12, from 5 p.m.-9 p.m., at The Forum, 404 Congress Ave. Reduced drink prices available, $5 contribution requested. Info: 512-406-6408.

The Log Cabin Republicans of Austin meet Jan. 28 for their general dinner meeting at the Tres Amigos Restaurant, corner of W. 38th and Lamar, at 7 p.m. The chapter will elect officers for 1999 and discuss proposed legislative bills affecting the gay community. Visitors welcome.

What's in a kiss? To find out, join MCC-Austin for their first annual Sweetheart Dance Feb. 5 at Treasure Island Bingo, 2400 E. Oltorf, which benefits OutYouth Austin. Doors open for dinner from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., then dance those calories off beginning at 9 p.m. If you can't find a date, there's a gender-friendly kissing booth, and 50/50 raffle you might win if you still strike out. Tickets: $20, $15 advance. Available at: MCC, 512-708-8002; Bookwoman, 918 W. 12th St., 512-472-2785; or Tape Lenders, 1114 W. 5th St., 512-472-0844. Info: 512-833-6581, as for Tony Krug. Email: tkrug@cwix.com.

ART

The Skylight Gallery welcomes Travis Lindquist and his exposition "Human Transactions and Consumption," a "neo-expressionist" exhibit. Opens Jan. 17. 307 E. 5th St. Info: 512-474-9005.

MUSIC

The Capital City Men's Chorus invites interested persons to their rehearsals. Call 512-477-SING for more information.

Tickets are on sale now for Luciano Pavarotti's performance at the Frank Erwin Center Feb. 7. It's his first concert in the Capitol City. Tickets: $20-$225. 512-477-6060.

Austin Symphony Orchestra conductor Peter Bay conducts the "Mozart Birthday Bash" at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity St., on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. Tickets: $8-$28, 512-476-6927 or 512-454-TIXS.

OPERA

Austin Lyric Opera presents Richard Strauss' "Salome," with Andreas Mitisek conducting. Bass Concert Hall at UT. Runs Jan. 16. Closes Jan. 17. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m. Tickets: $12-$90, 512-472-9992 or 800-31-OPERA. Web: www.austin-lyricopera.org.

STAGE

Public Domain opens the New Year with Harold Pinter's "Betrayal." Opens Jan. 22. Closes Feb. 20. 807 Congress Ave. Tickets: $10-$12, 512-474-6202.

State Theater Company presents "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde." Rio Grande Campus of ACC, 1212 Rio Grande. Closes Jan. 31. Tickets: $18-$20, 512-472-5143.

The Paramount Theatre Extraordinary Series celebrates Milton Berle's "90th Birthday Celebration" Jan. 23. 713 Congress, 8 p.m. Tickets: $24-$47, 512-472-5470. Web: www.austin360.com/paramnt/index.htm.

Now that the president stands impeached by the House of Representatives, the last thing you might want to hear about is politics. That is, of course, unless it's a story about legendary U.S. Representative and former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn from Texas. Rayburn's congressional career stretched from the presidency of Woodrow Wilson to the election of John. F. Kennedy. When asked by one colleague about whether he should run for the Senate, Rayburn retorted, "Why would you want to do that? You're already here." That home-spun wisdom is just a similar sample of what David R. Jarrott performs in Clay Nichol's one-man play "The Speaker Speaks, An Evening with Sam Rayburn." Opens Jan. 31. Closes Feb. 16. Public Domain Theatre, 807 Congress. Tickets: $10-$12, 512-474-6202.

DALLAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grab five bucks and boogie down with the DFW Roller Skating Club, which meets monthly each 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. at 1900 Great S.W. Parkway in Grand Prairie. Info: 214-660-0100.

Join the Rainbow Roller Skating Club, which meets every Wednesday from 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. at the Forum Roller World, 1900 Great S.W. Parkway in Grand Prairie. Personal skates and in-lines are welcome. Cost: $5. For more info, contact Dylan Valdez at 214-836-7362.

Kitchen Dog Theater is soliciting entries for its New Work Festival. Your full length script must be for a cast of 1-5 members, include a self-addressed, self-stamped postcard for verification, and must be mailed to Artistic Director Dan Day, Kitchen Dog Theatre, 3120 McKinney Ave., Dallas, 75204 no later than Feb. 15. Info: 214-953-1055.

ART

African American artist Kara Walker, winner of the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award, opens her black-paper silhouette exhibition "Presenting Negro Scenes Drawn Upon my Passage Through the South and Reconfigured for the Benefit of Enlightened Audiences Wherever Such may be Found" at the MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Free. Closes Feb. 14. Information: 214-953-1212 web: www.atypical.com\THEMAC.

BROADWAY SERIES

The Broadway Contemporary Series presents "The Gin Game," with Charles Durning and Julie Harris. Closes Jan. 17. The Majestic Theater, 1924 Elm St.. Tickets: 214-373-8000.

MUSIC

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast," featuring Metropolitan Opera star Alan Opie. Closes Jan. 16. DSO Superpops welcomes The Manhattan Transfer Jan. 29-30. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., 8 p.m. Tickets: 214-692-0203. Web: www.dallassymphony.com.

OPERA

Dallas Opera welcomes the new year with Wagner's masterpiece "Der Ring des Nibelugen." James Morris debuts with DO in the role of Wotan. Closes Jan. 16. Tickets: $19-$156. Info: 214-443-1000.

STAGE

Kitchen Dog Theater is in a hurry for "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett. Opens Feb. 6. Closes March 7 at the MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Tickets: $8-$18, 214-953-1055.

Theatre Three presents a comedy based on Marivaux's "Triumph of Love." Opens Jan. 21. Closes Feb. 21. Location: 2800 Routh. Tickets and info: call 214-871-3300. Web: www.vline.net/theatre3.

Echo Theatre presents the area premiere of Claire Chafee's award-winning play "Why We Have A Body" at The Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Dr. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm, with a pre-show reading of Patricia Montley's short play "Juice" at 7:45 p.m. Two Saturday matinees scheduled Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 at 2:00pm. Closes Jan. 30. Tickets: $10-$15, 214-824-7169.

FT. WORTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Triangle Networking Tarrant meets Jan. 25 at Dos Gringos, 1015 University, for their monthly social at 6 p.m. Cost: $5.

ART

"Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience": Some 200 hundred pieces of stunning Egyptian craftsmanship dating as far back as 5,000 years makes its way to the Kimball Art Museum. The exhibition includes ornate earthenware and small-scale statuettes of kings and gods. Opens Jan. 24. Closes April 25. Free. Kimball Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd. Info: 817-332-8451.

BROADWAY SERIES

Those rowdy Australians are at it again, this time in Fort Worth, with the clinking clanking human drum machine dance sensation "Stomp." Opens Feb. 23. Closes: Feb. 28 at Bass Performance Hall, Fourth St. at Calhoun and Commerce. Tickets: $24-$57, 972-647-5700.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," winner of six Tony Awards, plays at Bass Performance Hall, Fourth St. at Calhoun and Commerce. Opens Jan. 26. Closes Jan. 31. Tickets: $22-$55, call 817-332-2272. Web: www.iminet.com/casamanana.

STAGE

Stage West Theatre presents Euripides' "Medea." Opens Jan. 15. Closes Feb. 6. 3053-55 S. University Dr.. Tickets: 817-STG-WEST.

"The Complete History of America (abridged)" is held over till Feb. 14 at Casa Manana's Theatre on the Square, 109 E. 3d St. Tickets: $16-$24, 817-332-CASA, metro 972-647-5700.

Circle Theatre sings "Side by Side by Sondheim." It's a musical with Broadway hits from shows like "West Side Story" and "Gypsy." Closes Feb. 14. Location: 230 W. Fourth St. Tickets: $15-$20, 817-877-3040.

Fort Worth Theatre opens 1999 with Terrence McNally's "Love! Valour! Compassion!" directed by Texas Triangle contributing writer Steven Alan McGaw. The production is a component of the Labor of Love series, an HIV fund-raising organization. Closes Jan. 23. Tickets: $10, 817-921-5300.

HOUSTON

ANNOUCEMENTS

The Woodlands PFLAG celebrates two candles on the cake Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Northwoods Unitarian Church, 1370 N. Millbend Dr. Then join the group Feb. 21 for speaker Beverly Brinson, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P., for "Opening the Closet Door-From Despair to Acceptance."

BROADWAY SERIES

Everybody loves a wedding, even gays and lesbians who can't legally have one. Even so, you can't help but want to join in on the Italian-American convolution in "Tony n' Tina's Wedding." Along with the 30-member cast, you become part of the play as a guest in the audience. The actors stay in character during the ceremony and the reception phase, where you join the newlyweds for cake, champagne, live-band dancing and an Italian buffet. The play is an Off-Broadway smash, and tickets here are selling fast. Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. Closes Feb. 14. Tickets: 713-629-3700.

COMMUNITY CENTER

HLGCC invites you to CenterCinema each 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of the month. 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-737-4538.

DANCE

The sensuality of the tango tickles Bayou Place as Society for the Performing Arts presents "Tango Buenos Aires." The elegant interaction unfolds in two acts with 25 dancers. Two-day show Jan. 16-17. Aerial Theatre, 520 Texas Ave. Tickets: $18-$45, 713-227-ARTS, or 1-800-828-ARTS.

MUSIC

Join the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston for their weekly rehearsals every Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh at Missouri. Rehearsals run 7-10 p.m. Nonmembers welcome. Info: 713-521-SING (7464). Web: www.gmch.org.

With an intensely loyal following among drag queens and drama queens, gays can't seem to get enough of Patti LaBelle. For that reason, you might want to scrape up your pennies left over from the holidays and get tickets to her performance Jan. 28 at the Arena Theatre, 7326 SW Freeway. Gerald Levert joins Ms. LaBelle in the round. Tickets: $55, 713-988-1020.

OPERA

Houston Grand Opera presents Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning work "A Little Night Music." Opens Jan. 29. Runs Jan. 31, Feb. 3, 6, 9, and 12. Closes: Feb. 14. Location: Wortham Center, Texas at Smith downtown. Tickets: $20-$175, 713-227-ARTS.

STAGE

The Little Room Downstairs upends Martin Sherman's "A Madhouse in Goa." Opens Jan. 15. Closes Jan. 30. Location: 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar and Kirby. Tickets: $15, 713-523-0791.

Houston political hound and social circle troublemaker Ray Hill continues his one-man monologues with his latest show "Ray Hill and the Sex Police." Opens Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. at One's A Meal, 647 W. Gray. Tickets: $8-$10. Info: 713-524-0715.

Main Street Theater presents William Shakespeare's "Othello." Closes Jan. 17. The musical "Leave It To Jane" closes Jan. 17. MST presents the WWII Nazi drama "Watch on the Rhine." Closes Feb. 14. Location: 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets: 713-524-6706.

The Alley Theater begins 1999 with Martin McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," which was nominated for six Tony Awards. For mature audiences only. Closes Feb. 6. Downtown, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets: 713-228-8421. Web: www.alleytheater.com.

The title may be more shocking than the content, but Theater LaB is off and running in 1999 with the "controversial gay" drama "Shopping and Fucking." In a nutshell, it's about how people make money into a god and consumerism into a religion. Now, that doesn't sound like anybody you know, does it? Closes Feb. 14. Location: 1706 Alamo, off 2100 Houston Ave. Tickets: $20-$22, 713-868-7516.

SAN ANTONIO

COMMUNITY CENTER

GLCC offers free HIV testing Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. 3126 N. St. Mary's. Info: 210-732-4300.

GLCC movie night every Friday: Jan. 15: "The Crying Game." Jan. 22: "Lie Down with Dogs." Jan. 29: "Twelfth Night." Showtime: 7:30 p.m. 3126 N. St. Mary's. Info: 210-732-4300.

The gay + lesbian community center of San Antonio invites you to their free Saturday night mixers at 7 p.m. GLCC sponsors an HIV Support Plus Club every Sunday through the month of February from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. PFLAG Youth Groups meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. 3126 N. St. Mary's, 7:30 p.m. Info: 210-732-4300.

STAGE

San Pedro Playhouse twills "Forever Plaid." Runs Friday through Sunday at San Pedro Park and Ashby. Closes Feb. 27. Tickets" $8-$20, 210-733-7258.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATEWIDE

ARTISTS WANTED SF BAY AREA BY THE SAPPHO PROJECT
Dancers, choreographers, poets, potters, jewelers, painters and musicians (playing/composing/building ancient instuments) needed for reproducing work/ performing ancient and modern pieces. Strong commitment/ advanced skills wanted.Big exhibits in works for show @ Yerba Beuna Center in 2000. Project will contract with artists for financing. Women of diverse ethnicities encouraged to apply. Send slides/photos & brief bio to: The Sappho Project, P.O. Box 20351, El Sobrante, CA 94820 or call 510-222-4552 E-mail: SaphhoExhibits@aol.com

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E-mail: hr@wyndham-anatole.com
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATEWIDE

WANTED: GAYS WITH GUNS
Looking for lesbians & gays that own guns for a photo-documentary. 512-477-9940 Outside Austin, call collect.

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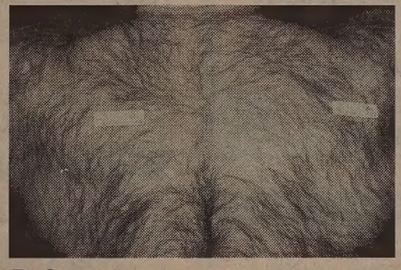

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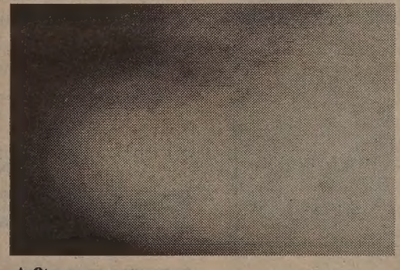

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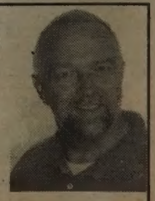

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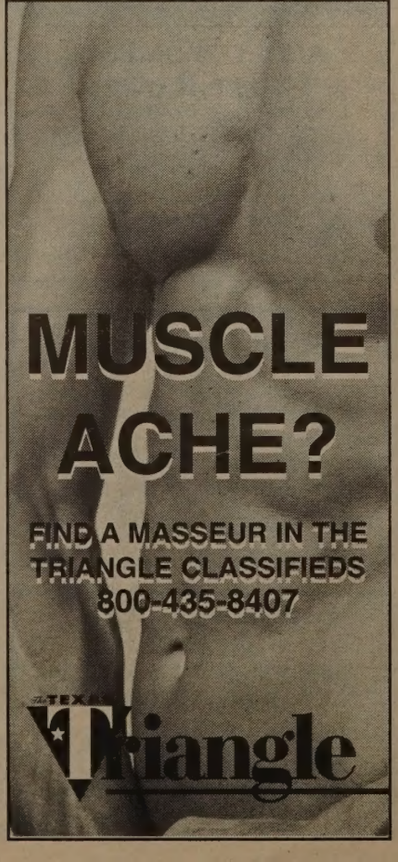

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SEEK PASSABLE TG TO 30ISH Closet TB 50ish seek TG,TV, TS. Friends, Hispanic or Anglo, attractive, easy to get along with. 5895 (1/28/99)

HIT OR MISS Austin

MICHAEL FROM SAN MARCOS It's John in Dallas. We met on Saturday, Nov. 14 at Oil Can Harry's. We parted around noon on Sunday. I spent that day and the next in a blissful state. Since then, I've thought of you often. It seems that the way we connected is very rare. I'd love to drive back down to see you. If you see this ad, please contact me. I gave you my number, but didn't ask for yours. I'd like to know what you think, and I would respect you honestly calling 5923

HIT OR MISS Corpus Christi

I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE 45 yo, GWM 178lbs Br/Br, DDF, Professional, non smoker, spiritual. Interest include travel, dining, the arts. ISO kind, sincere and honest masculine GW/HM, 25-50 with similar qualities willing to explore intimate, monogamous LT Relationship. I'm the one you've been praying for. Take a Risk with me 5925 (1/28/99)

personals@txtriangle.com

MEN D/FW

ARE YOU BLOCKED FROM THE 900 LINE? Don't be, now you can buy blocks of time as low as $20 using an 800 # & your credit card! Call 1-800-435-8407 TODAY!

WANT TO JUST MEET AND HAVE FUN! Have you really tried? Someone's out here just for you. It could be an ad you're reading, or maybe that persons best friend. Why don't you find out. Call 1-900-884-8028 $1.99/min. 18+, or call 1-800-982-3746 to use your credit card

BOY LOOKING FOR BOY for hot boystuff. You: 18-21 typical white boy, clean cut, smooth, cute, tall, thin build, whiskerless, versatile, little boy/pretty boy type. Your plentifuly seen just as you make over-size clothes/bb caps be also. ME: HM 21, cute boyish, 5'9", 160 lbs., blk/brn, clean cut/shaven, med. build, moderately "fuzzed", fair skin, smoke/drug free, naturally attracted to the above. Come on dude take a chance. Light hair types a plus. 5613 (1/28/99)

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF BIG D? Wanna meet another HOT guy in another city for new encounters? Place your ad in our new STATEWIDE category. Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm

FIND ME!!! If I wait for the rain, to kiss me and undress me, will I look a fool, wet and a mess, will I still be thirsty, will I pass the test and if I look for the rainbow will I see it or will it pass right by me? I still believe in love, even after the boots have come and trampled on me, I still believe. Intelligent, ambitious, romantic, 23, 5'11", 178#, dk. brown/hazel eyes, half Dutch/half Black, Mediterranean/Olive complexion, ISO 21 - 35 yo, for monogamos LTR. Blondes a plus but not a must! 5722 (1/28/99)

IT'S HOT OUTSIDE... Let's go inside and undress under the a/c and cuddle. Let's enjoy each other. If we like we'll be passionate together. 5748 (1/28/99)

DUDE LOOKS LIKE A LADY I'm WM, 44yo. 5'10", 190lb. Br. hair, Blu. eyes, nice-looking, masculine, disease free and relationship oriented. You 22-44yo. Pre-opTs or a dude that looks good in ladies dresses. Help me finish this song. 5749 (1/28/99)

LET'S BE FRIENDS After sudden death 30 year relationship over. Recently returned to area, nothing the same including me. I need a new life, friends of all types, aggressive or shy. I'm blond, blue, tall and thin. Passed my prime and very lost. Like cowboys, uniforms. All types of tops. 5759 (1/28/99)

ON THE RIGHT PATH GHM 22yo. 5'7", 135lbs, blackish brown hair and br. eyes. Clean shaven, smooth body. I don't do drugs or smoke. I enjoy movies, shopping, dining out, traveling and hanging out around the house. YOU: 18-35, masculine, honest, caring, loving and has his priorities in order. serious only please! 5761 (1/28/99)

TIRED OF LIVING ALONE GWM moving to Dallas or Austin soon. Looking for friends, dating and more, and would like to find that one special man in my life for monogamous LTR. I'm bright, active, secure, youthful, in-shape, "out", healthy, physically/emotionally/spiritually, 50 look 40, N/S, attracted to slim/slender men. Me: 6', 170#, blue. Any serious cyclists out there? 5828 (1/28/99)

EUROPEAN GOOD LOOKS Clean shaven, well endowed, shy, HIV-, 36 yo, 179lbs, 6', Enjoy MCC, beaches, seeking HIV-, Very Masculine man that is honest, caring, well endowed. 5906 (1/28/98)

GAY TRUCK DRIVER, Hairy, HIV- caring, clean shaven, handsome, 35, 5'11", br/br. Looking for masculine HIV-Football player-build man. Enjoys beaches, movies, MCC, Fairs, Zoos, Dining out, Day trips, Theatre and music 5918 (1/28/99)

BiWM, 30 5'10", 176 LBS, BR/BR, Recently moved here. Successful Professional, Discreet, Straight acting and very good looking, athletic - In great shape. Partake in movies, golf, racquetball, monoplay, etc. Looking for male or female that is attractive or similar age and qualities for friendship and maybe more. 5927 (1/28/99)

WOMEN D/FW

A GREAT CATCH BiWM, 30, 5'10", 177 LBS, Successfull Professional, Very Good Looking, in great shape, looking for attractive female of similar age for business functions & friendship 5872 (1/28/99)

HONEY Very attractive 20 year old black female. Fairly new to Dallas Area. Looking for attractive, intelligent women for friendship. Ages 21-30 who enjoy movies, clubs, malls. Lokking for women in the Irving, Arlington or Dallas area. 5825 (1/28/99)

JUST KNOW THIS if you don't call then you can't complain about not finding a nice girl to be with because you blew this one off without even giving me a chance. Me: 5'6", br hair, blue eyes, 35, You: Nice girl 5908 (1/28/99)

I AM A 48 YEAR OLD Female looking for a special person to spend the rest of my life with. I enjoy all outside activities and also enjoy a quiet home and romantic evenings: with my special someone. I have a son, a dog, a car and a home. I would love to share this with you. Age doesn't matter. No games 5909 (1/28/99

LOOKING FOR A MATE I'm looking for a soul mate. Likes to dance, dine, movies and dogs. SGWF 30-40. Me 33yo. 5'2" 100lbs. Br. hair, Hzl. eyes. Looking for friendship or more. No drugs please. 5745 (1/28/99)

TRANS D/FW

BE MINE PLEASE!!! Searching for pre or post op transgendered male to female, attractive, self supporting, fun loving, Intelligent, 100% female minded but down to earth. You stand by your man. 30-40yo. Adult friends first and lovers, no games please. Open minded, etc. Enjoys chess to clubs, good music and life. Serious only please! 5760 (1/28/99)

MEN Houston

MALE LOOKING FOR A BUDDY AND PART TIME LOVER Distinctive, masculine man. I'm 37, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'4", 156 lbs and I am HIV+ for 14 years. I'm a passive type man, thorough and trustworthy. #5940 2/29/99

DOMINAT NEEDED SGWM, older, submissive bottom. ISO Dominat top, Gay or Bi Male, any race/age (younger preferred) to take control 5898 (1/28/99)

NEW TO HOUSTON S/W/M 24yo. Red hair & Br. eyes. 6'0" 140lbs. Looking for G/M to spend time w/and maybe relationship. Race not important. 34-40 yo. Call me for fun w/a friend. #5581 (1/28/99)

SALSA Sensual Latin lover looking for Anglo Senior. Intellectual, love to dance salsa and be spicy all the time. 5614 1/28/99

LOOKING FOR ONE OR TWO Hispanic male couple 27/31 looking for an extra party or two, HIV+, drug free, and willing. HWP, Montrose area, seeking W/H males between 18-35. No drugs, commitments or hang-ups. 5694 (1/28/99)

TRANQUIL COUNTRY LIFE West of Houston East of Austin. Attractive, 40, 6'3", 165lbs., mustache. Tantalizing, green eyes, HIV- enjoy my Wranglers, boots, C/W dancing. Home life and romance. Tired of bar games, seeking sincere man with country values. H/W prop. 5708 (1/28/99)

COULD YOU BE THE LOVE OF MY LIFE GWM, 31yo. 5'11" 180lbs. DO: Bm/HZL, Moustache and Goatee, Hairy Chest, Handsome, Healthy and HIV+. Asymptomatic. Down To Earth. Open-Minded, Romantic Etc. Enjoys many varied outdoor and indoor activities. Seeking a man of similar Qualities (HIV - or +) for LTR. 5713 (1/28/99)

GWM SEEKS FRIENDSHIP LEADING TO LTR GWM, 39yo. 5'11" 170lbs. Big green eyes, Irish grin, seeking laughter affection and compasioinship leading to LTR. HIV - seeking same. Deeply spiritual man seeking same, Christianity a plus. As for as looks, I find all types of men attractive as long as they're direct and honest and know what they want. Asians, slender brunettes, and petite but saucy men a definite plus. No tricks please. 5716 (1/28/99)

YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WORLD 31yo GWM 180lbs. 5'11" 1/2 K, BR/HZL., HIV+ Seeking a friend. I enjoy simple things in life. Down to Earth. Likes: outdoors, camping, hiking etc. I'm not afraid to try new things. 5740 (1/28/99)

MOONSTRUCK Healthy, Recently retired executive. Enjoying the good life. Divided between Fayette Co. and Houston. Looking for relaxed, cuddly companion and more. Poolside cocktails and tryouts by appointment only. 5795 (1/28/99)

ROMANCE AND MORE GWJM cub 5'8", 245 lbs looking for Asian or Latino guys, skinny, smooth no taller than 5'8", no facial hair and 24-31 for dating and possible LTR. Interest include movies, plays, coffee shops and dinners 5907 (1/28/99)

personals@txtriangle.com

BM VISITING HOUSTON Masculine, muscular, easy going, compassionate, affectionate, fun loving. Catholic H/W prop, N/S, N/D, D/D Free. ISO Catholic Latinos 30-40 for friends or possible LTR 5911 (1/28/99) Phoenix/Houston

MUSCLE FREAK 25 yo, HM, 6'1", 175#, br/br, swimmers build, seeking muscle bound body builder type men for safe and sane encounters. Must be 25-45 yo, 5'6" - 6'4", very muscular. W/H is a +, but not necessary. If interested please contact me. Thanks. 5912 (1/28/99)

ATTRACTIVE AND HANDSOME SGAM 26, discreet, educated, honest and caring. New in town and seeking GWM, 26-35 ht/wt prop for friendship and possible LTR. Enjoys movies, dinner and quiet evenings. Please no games and honesty is a plus 5919 (1/28/99)

SUBMISSIVE BOTTOM INTO BONDAGE 50 YO, DOM h/w prop HIV+, Seeks H/W prop very submissive bottom into Bondage & Dis, VA, WS, Hot Wax. Age/Race HIV status not important - Call Now 5922 (1/28/99)

MEN San Antonio

SEEK SOUL MATE-HEART TO HEART "MAN" Italian-American, 44 yrs, 5'6", 140#, HIV+ healthy, No Drugs or chronic smokers. Attractive, Brown/Blk Hair, Brown Eyes. Hairy chest, mustache, Runners, outdoors, arts- hist. No bores. No games. Positvie outlook on life. Cuddler. Enjoys singing, jewelry, designing. No fems or alchee's. LTR only. Not into abuse! 5899 (12/10)

LTR BY INSTIABLE BTM BOY 30 yo, 5'11", 165 lbs, handsome HIV+, healthy. Into heavy, hard sex. thr toys, cuddling, videos. Very oral. Hard working. ISO dominant + caring, aggressive top. 35-45 HWP. No games, monogamous only #5938, 2/29/99

WOMEN Houston

LOOKING FOR MISS RIGHT OR ALMOST RIGHT I'm sexy, sensual, and love to explore my more aggressive side. I love reading the Triangle Personals and hope to read something about you soon. Call 1-900-884-8028 to place your instant ad today. $1.99 min./18+, or to use your credit card call 1-800-982-3746 $1.99 min

TRANS Houston

HELP ME FIND YOU... 29yo Hispanic male seeks hermaphrodites or TV's who live full time as a woman. Please be from Houston, Galveston or Texas City. But you don't have to be. Be white or Latin 18-42yo. #5833 (1/28/99)

CLEAN CUT PROFESSIONAL HOUSTON 5'4" 140lbs, 48 looks 35, boyish, very smooth, versatile, like sex A-Z, Casual, romantic, semi kinky. We are both super clean, DDF, HIV-, generous, starving for any race. Full figured OK 5924 (1/28/99)

E-MAIL IS FREE MAIL PERSONALS@TXTRIANGLE.COM

TRANS San Antonio

NAUGHTY BUT NICE Good looking, SHBiM, 26, seeks thin sexy, HIV -- TS for passionate encounters in San Antonio area. 5837 (1/28/99)

MEN Statewide

TITANIC LOVE Deep passion erupts from the bottom of the sea; full and strong like a sperm whale; like the mighty ocean; You: a sexy, femine, honey child, thin and smooth, maybe 20' - 30's, 5'8" with stars in your eyes that shine like jewels that tells the whole world how obviously gay your heart is and ready to share. Oh, about me. I'm GWM, 5'9", 170lbs well developed with light hazel eyes, light hair in my 40's, so call me and we'll meet for one sweet dream #5472, 1/28/99

I AM 40YO WGM Looking for 25-35 yo WGM who wants to have a good time. Like country music and bike riding. #5939, 2/29/99

SEEKING FRIENDS 33 YO GWM, 5'9" 135lbs. Blonde, blue eyes. Looking for others GM's for friendship and possible LTR. Likes: Outdoors, camping, movies Etc. Must be honest and sincere. 5625 (1/28/99)

TALL & THIN WITH SMOOTH SWIMMERS BUILD Brown and Blue with swimmers build. Attractive 29yo. Seeks smooth, thin, fun guy with Unusual personality. 5741 (1/28/99)

LOOKING FOR A COWBOY SWM, 42yo. BR. hair BR. eyes and a mustache, 155 lbs. Tall, slim, cowboy looking for the same. I'm 42, but look 30. I live in Cleveland Texas. Looking for someone this way: Porter, Conroe, Woodland, Beaumont, Humble etc. Love to talk, so call me. Like cooking, home, animals, yard work. Someone who would like to live this way (IN THE WOODS) That's what I mean. 5750 (1/28/99)

GWM 40, 5'7" BR/BL Goodlooking Top h/w prop, n/s, n/d, HIV+, I enjoy: taking care of my home and dog, home projects, camping, fishing, boating, bowling, country music, horseback riding and working out. IS Someone to share my f, home and possessions 5910 (1/28/99) Amarillo

GOOD FRIEND FIRST BM, masculine, discreet, intelligent and a sense of humor who loves horseback riding, music and country living. ISO, B/HM 35-55 who has similar interests 5920 (1/28/99) Coldspring

ALL BUSINESS NO PLAY GHM 33 yo, in McAllen area looking for GWM 35-50 conservative, business oriented with a creative funside,. Ed Harris looks a plus! Give me a call if in the area on business 5921 (1/28/99) McAllen

NEW TO TEXARKANA Hoping there are others here and around the outlying areas. I am WM, 30 yo, 5'6" 160 lbs. Average looks and build. HIV-. Seeking friends and possible LTR with W or Latin males. Non smoker, No drugs, very light drinking OK. Ages 25 - 45, HIV-. No overweights! No fems, please 5926 (1/28/99)

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEBOY? Younger GWM in San Antonio ISO older... Who needs a general houseboy. Prefer weekends at your place, but available weekdays if you need your weekends. Very flexible about your needs and desires. Prefer LTR but you decide everything. Mutually beneficial relationship sought. I cook, clean, give great back rubs, but then again am very open to what you need. I am masculine and smooth body. If you like model/GQ magazine types then I am what you are looking for. Human race welcome. 5'7", 155 lbs, Call and let's meet to talk. 5928 (1/28/98)

WOMEN Statewide

ONLY FOOLS RUSH IN Looking for love, want to have fun getting to know each other. Me 5'5" bl/br 18. You: Soft Butch or Fem. Must like mushy stuff, dancing and laughing. Let's get to know each other. Love to hear from you. Serious replies only 5905 (1/28/99)

SGWF, BR HAIR BLUE EYES Soft butch, 35, 5'9", 170lbs looking for SGHF Soft butch D/D Free in San Antonio/Corpus Area 5912 (1/28/99)

SWEET FEMME 25 SEEKS HER BUTCH I prefer an older woman, Me: waist long hair, 5'7", Zena like Amazon woman. Bottom or top with a great loving personality. You must adore me for all I am. Into some bondage and domination. LTR 5917 (1/28/99) El Paso

LIVE IN DALLAS TRAVEL TO HOUSTON? IF this is you, and you would like to meet someone in a different city, place an ad HERE! Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon-Fri 9am-6pm to place your FREE ad by phone.

LET'S TRY CUDDLING!!! I enjoy cuddling, do you? GWM-big bear 40, warm and regular cuddling sessions. See Houston area. 5552 (1/28/99)

WILD SUBMISSIVE BOY! Seeks top for dominance pleasure of any kind ages 23-45! Stamina, sweat and willing to travel a must. Sought by naughty Hispanic boy 23, 6'3", blk/brn, aggressive, attentive and pleasurable bottom, oral ecstasy my specialty and more, discipline me if you can! I dare you! 5413 (1/28/99)

NORTHEAST TEXAS Nonmainstream, GWM, 59, 5'10", 170 lbs, bl/bl, attractive, fair, hairy, degreed, affectionate, good shape, masculine, very affectionate, HIV-, drug-free, very sensual, versatile bottom, and deception free. Outdoorsman into fitness, nutrition with many interesets. ISO LTR with GWM, 25-45 attractive, slender/very trim, intelligent, non-bar type, HIV-, loyal, very sexual guy. Serious only. 5704 (1/28/99) DFW

TRANS Statewide

INTERESTED in something...different? Are you looking for a TS, or TV? Leave an ad here and maybe you'll get lucky. Call 1-800-435-8407 to place your FREE Personals ad today. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, or place an instant ad by calling 1-800-982-3746 with your AMEX/MC/ or VISA $1.99/min. 18+

LIVE BARBIE Me: complete change male to female, 36 years young, but I look 27, I have blonde hair green hazel eyes, I'm 5'9" 145 lbs, measurements are a 34 D, 26", 34" I have an hour glass figure. I'm all woman and love being treated that way. I'm very attractive, single, honest . Drug and disease free, HIV-, no addictions, nonsmoker, very compassionate, healthy, athletic, and young at heart, mind body and soul. I'll be your live BARBIE doll. Oklahoma City 5336 (1/28/99)

1-800-982-3746 or 1-900-884-8028 press 1 1.99/min.

ADULT SERVICES
STATEWIDE

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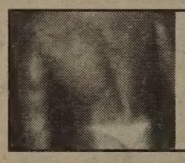
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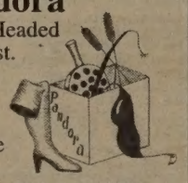

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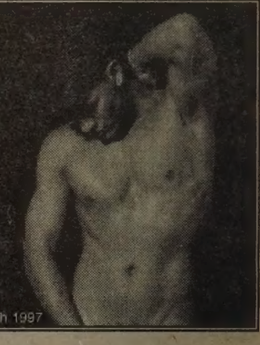
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JOCELYN ENRIQUEZ AT THE VILLAGE STATION JANUARY 29th
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TEXAS Triangle
November 20, 1997 Vol. VI Issue 5

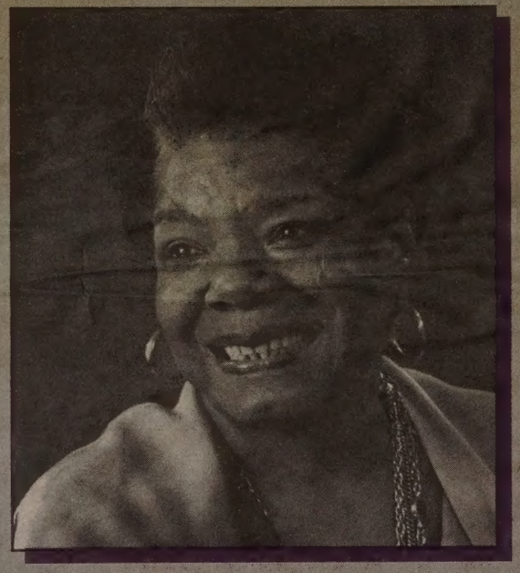
Maya Angelou

And The Dallas Black Tie Dinner

dinner theme A HAND IN GIVING

Black Tie Dinner

Tickets are still available for the Dallas/Fort Worth Black Tie Dinner featuring keynote speaker...



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Metropolitan Community Church
San Antonio AIDS Foundation
San Antonio Equal Rights Political Caucus
Texas Human Rights Foundation
The Unity Foundation
Wellness Connection

9th Annual Dinner & Dance

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1997
Marriott River Center Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM: Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction Opening
7:30 PM: Dinner
10:00 PM: Dancing
Honorary Chair:
State Representative Christine Hernandez
Keynote Speaker: Mary Fisher, AIDS Activist
Human Rights Campaign Spokesperson:
Donna Redwing, National Field Director
Master of Ceremonies: Randy Escamilla, Channel 4 News Reporter
Presentation of Awards:
Larry Broam, Graphic Artist & Community Supporter
Diane Hardy Garcia Executive Director LGRL Hope Action Care (Hispanic AIDS Committee)
Entertainment by an Ensemble of The Alamo City Men's Chorale
Attire: Black Tie or Floppers & Derbies
$145

VIP Cocktail Party

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1997
8:00-10:00 PM
Magnolia's on Main
2030 N. Main at W. Ashby
Special Guest Speaker:
Elizabeth Birch
Executive Director,
Human Rights Campaign
Entertainment by Ken Slavin
$50

Workshop

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Gay Physicians Fear Mandatory Reporting Will Impair Patient Care

SAN FRANCISCO - Concerned that named HIV reporting is a dangerous medical path that would be detrimental to testing and treatment efforts, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), a San Francisco-based national medical organization, announced this week its strong opposition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's plan to urge states to begin requiring physicians to report the names of people infected with HIV.

"HIV discrimination is, unfortunately, still quite common, and the CDC's proposal could result in fewer at-risk persons coming forward for HIV screening," said GLMA board member and nationally recognized HIV expert Ken Mayer, MD, director of the Brown University AIDS Program. "We are concerned that the CDC is encouraging the creation of this type of surveillance system at a time when medical advances have made it even more critical for people to feel comfortable being tested and coming in for treatment as early as possible."

GLMA's warning is prompted by a resolution adopted by the associations Board of Directors calling for caution in the implementation of any HIV surveillance system and urging the CDC to more aggressively study methods of protecting patient confidentiality.

GLMA agrees that improving the CDC's HIV surveillance methods is necessary to more accurately track the HIV/AIDS epidemic and more effectively target prevention services. But if these changes include named HIV reporting, GLMA warns, the CDC's decision could be detrimental to the health of many women and men and could severely compromise the doctor-patient relationship. The resolution also calls on the CDC to expand its use of anonymous population-based studies, to require all states to offer anonymous testing programs (10 states currently prohibit anonymous testing), and underscores GLMA's strenuous rejection of any plan to link HIV surveillance with any other public health effort of disease control, such as partner notification.

To emphasize GLMA's concerns, GLMA Director of Public Policy Marj Plumb recently met with John Ward, MD, Chief of the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Branch of the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, to explain the associations position and to encourage the CDC to pursue other surveillance methods.

"The CDC is in the business of health, but this plan could cause harm by driving the epidemic further underground, denying patients the benefits of early therapy," said GLMA Board President Michael Horberg, MD, a San Francisco Bay Area internist who specializes in HIV. "We will continue to meet with the CDC and others to emphasize the public health dangers of promoting named HIV reporting and to highlight alternative solutions that will help communities get the types of prevention services they need."

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association is an organization of nearly 2,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered physicians, medical students, and their supporters in all 50 states and 12 countries. Founded in 1981, GLMA works to combat homophobia within the medical profession and to promote quality health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered patients.

Clinton To Honor Gay Church Founder This Week

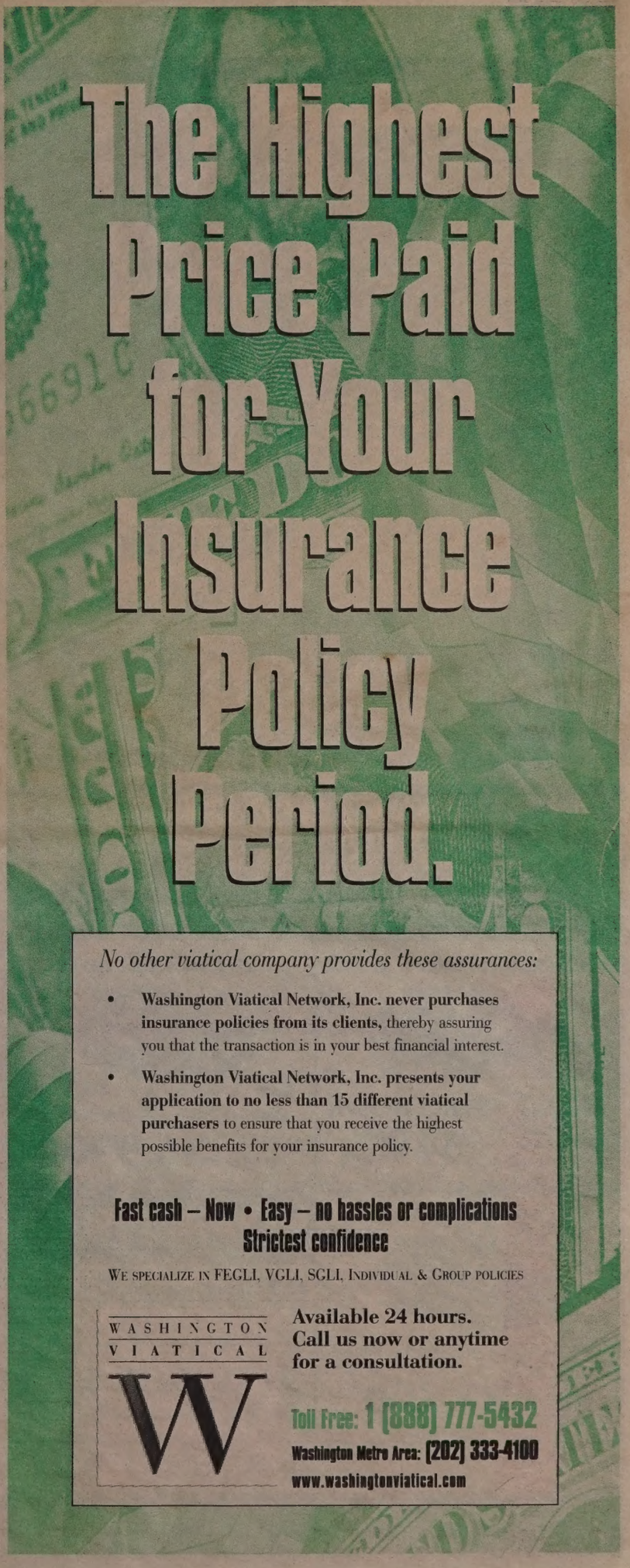
By Gip Plaster
Contributing Writer

President Clinton will honor Troy Perry, the founder of the largest gay and lesbian church denomination in the world, along with 120 other religious leaders at a White House ceremony, November 20.

Perry, the founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), will return to the White House this week to be honored for his contribution to society. Perry was an invited participant of a hate crimes conference held at the White House earlier in this month. Perry and other honorees will also attend a breakfast with President Clinton, according to a UFMCC news release with has not yet been made public.

"This invitation is, in a wider sense, a recognition of contributions of each our churches, ministers and members to the worldwide work of building 'spiritual outposts,'" Perry said. "I think it is also a recognition of the hard grassroots work our churches have done to build bridges of understanding throughout society. I am both humbled by this recognition and honored to represent the UFMCC at this White House event."

UFMCC is the largest predominately lesbian and gay church denomination in the world with over 300 congregations in 15 countries. It also claims to be the largest gay and lesbian organization of any kind in the world.



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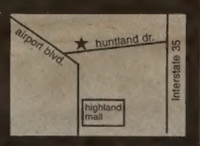

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Pioneer Gay Activist and Archivist Jim Kepner Dead at 74

By Hope Johnson
TRIANGLE Staff

Texas native Jim Kepner, founder and curator of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives (IGLA) and long-time gay activist, died this past Saturday in Los Angeles.

The archives, which Kepner began in 1942, is valued by gay scholars around the world and reportedly contain some 22,000 books and more than 100,000 newspaper and magazine articles dating from as far back as 1906. The collection, housed at the University of Southern California, also contains matchbooks from gay bars, video's, photos and letters collected during Kepner's 74 years.

> "They did their job, we must see that their work is recorded for future generations and then carry on the work."

According to an *LA Times* obituary, Kepner started collecting his memorabilia and reference material while working as a railroad clerk in San Francisco in the early 1940s. From there he moved to New York after World War II where spent three years working as a reporter for the *Daily Worker*, a Communist newspaper. He later lost that job and was expelled from the Communist Party when party officials became aware of his sexual orientation. Following that he moved to Los Angeles, where he became an early member of the Mattachine Society, a powerful gay rights group during the 1950s.

Kepner was also active in editing *One*, the first regular-circulation American magazine for and by gays and lesbians.

"Once again we are reminded that we must get our history on the record and saved, since those who founded the movement in the early 50s are now leaving us," said William Glover, vice chair of the Homosexual Information Center in a faxed statement to *The Triangle*. "They did their job, we must see that their work is recorded for future generations and then carry on the work."

Kepner died at approximately 11 a.m. Saturday at Midway Hospital in Los Angeles after being admitted for an intestinal 'problem' which was later described as a perforated intestine. Memorial services are pending.

Federal Agents Ask For Help In Atlanta Bombings - Again

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) - In yet another plea for the public's help in solving three Atlanta bombings, investigators this past Tuesday displayed a bombmaker's buffet of components identical to those used in the attacks, including nails, duct tape, steel plates and windup alarm clocks.

Members of the federal-state task force investigating the bombings hoped that the display, spread out across three tables, would jog people's memories.

It was the fifth public appeal since the July 1996 blast at Centennial Olympic Park that killed one person and injured more than 100.

The task force is also investigating two explosions at a suburban abortion clinic in January and a blast at a gay nightclub in February. A second bomb at the club was detonated by police. A total of 12 people were injured in the last two attacks.

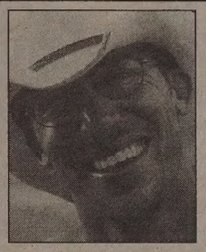
Investigators have said for months that they believe the three bombings were related. There have been no arrests.

At each bombing site, investigators found: Several pounds of nails used as shrapnel. Steel plates one-eighth-inch to one-quarter-inch thick. Windup alarm clocks made by Westclox. Gray duct tape and black electrical tape.

There were differences as well. Three to four pounds of smokeless gunpowder was used in the Olympic bomb, while the other four bombs used dynamite.

A military-style backpack was used to hold the Olympic bomb. Military-style ammunition cans were used at the clinic, and a common polyester knapsack was the container at the nightclub.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The task force hot line is 1-888-ATF-BOMB.



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Business Gives the Gift of Life At a Discount

AUSTIN - N8 Menswear and Gifts, a local retail clothing store, is offering their holiday donation program once again, this year to benefit AIDS Services of Austin (ASA).

Throughout the months of November and December, N8 customers who bring in any non-perishable food or personal hygiene item will receive a 15 percent discount off their purchases. The donated items will then be given to the Helping Hands Food Pantry at ASA.

For more information contact Cody Holt at N8 at 512-478-3446 or ASA at 512-458-AIDS.

HIV Radio Program Celebrates First Anniversary

AUSTIN - Local radio station KOOP 91.7fm has announced this week the one year anniversary of *RadioActive: Your HIV News Source,* a weekly public affairs show produced and hosted by Jose Orta.

Since November of 1996, *RadioActive* has featured in-depth discussion, interviews, music and commentary on the state of HIV in Central Texas. The weekly program has also featured a number of prominent guests, including David Smith from the HRC, Tom Henderson and representatives from AIDS Services of Austin, Informe-SIDA and the Texas Civil Rights Project.

"I'm very proud of the fact that *RadioActive* is a year old," Orta said. "By simply turning on a radio and tuning to KOOP you can get up to the minute information about services, treatments and upcoming events. This is only one of a few such shows in the nation."

RadioActive airs Tuesdays at 4 p.m. on KOOP 91.7fm, a listener-supported radio station. For more information, contact the station at 512-472-1369 or by mail at P.O. Box 2116, Austin TX 78768.

Women Pedal for Breast Cancer Cure

DALLAS - More than 20 women from across the nation are taking part in a bicycle tour to raise awareness of the dangers of breast cancer and to raise an estimated $100,000 for the Dallas-based Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The "Pedal For The Cure" ride is the first all-women bicycle ride of its kind in the United States. Participants began their more than 3,000 mile trek in San Diego on October 30 and are expected to finish in Jacksonville, Florida in early December. Ride organizers have billed the event as a 35 day tour with riders completing 80 to 110 miles per day.

"On a personal level, riders want to create a national awareness for the importance of early detection," said Susan DeMattei, a gold medal Olympic cyclist and spokeswoman for the event. "We know that breast cancer is 90 percent curable if detected early."

The tour is in Texas this week, with riders scheduled to wind their way through El Paso, San Antonio, and Houston. Additional stops are expected in New Orleans, Mobile, Alabama and Pensacola.

Since 1982, the Komen Foundation has raised more than $65 million to fund education, research and treatment for breast cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer affects more than 184,000 women each year and is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 35 and 54. For more information on the riders' progress check their website at abcinternet.com/pfc/

Texans Win at 11th IGRA Finals

The 11th annual International Gay Rodeo Association [IGRA] Rodeo of Champions in Phoenix, AZ welcomed more than 135 cowboys and girls from across the United States and Canada. Participants competed for the title of International Champion in each of the 13 IGRA events.

Participants honored from the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) include Candy Pratt (Steer Decorating, Women's Break-away Roping & Women's Pole Bending competitions) and Cheryl Wayne, (Women's Calf Roping on Foot). Jame Roberts of Houston was crowned 2nd Runner-Up for Miss IGRA 1998.

Austin Writers Rescue One of Our Own

AUSTIN (AP) - Lars Eighner spent three years without a home, sleeping under bridges from Austin to Southern California, digging through trash for food, always accompanied by his dog, Lizbeth.

The book he wrote about it, "Travels with Lizbeth," brought him national acclaim in 1993 - but not enough money to keep him off the streets. So local writers are now working together to help him set up house.

Eigher, who has published a novel, wrote reviews, magazine essays, gay erotica; and made appearances at book events, could no longer afford the rent on his Austin bungalow. Last year, he moved into a San Antonio apartment. But two weeks ago, he returned to Austin and homelessness, pitching a tent near a creek bridge.

Texas Observer editor Louis Dubose on Monday moved the 48 year old Eighner, the author's companion and Lizbeth into a room in his house. A committee of local writers plan to create a rescue fund to help Eighner pay rent on an apartment.

HGLPC PAC to Host Parker Fundraiser

HOUSTON - Houston City Council candidate Annise Parker will be the focus of a fundraising reception hosted by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee from 5:30 until 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24.

"Annise Parker represents mainstream Houston voters; she is the only candidate who does," said HGLPC PAC Board Chair Clarence Bagby. "Her broad range of endorsements illustrate that fact. Parker's campaign phone number is 713-521-7338.

"Parker's experience in solving neighborhood and community issues in the numerous positions in which she has served and her work with equality issues with the Police Department make her the best candidate," said HGLPC PAC Co-Chair Jay Seegers. "She will serve the city well when she is elected."

Houston Wellness Center Appoints Executive Director

HOUSTON - The Board of Directors of Body Positive/Houston has appointed John H. Alexander, Ed.D. as Executive Director. Alexander joins the administration with extensive experience in government, higher education and non-profit administration, external relations, and development.

Gay M. Rod, President of Body Positive/Houston said, "We are pleased to have John Alexander join us as we move forward in our plans to open the Body Positive Houston Wellness Center. With (his) assistance we are raising the necessary funds to complete construction, and plan to open early in 1998."

The Body Positive Houston Wellness Center is a collaborative project of Body Positive/Houston, The Women's HIV Coalition, The Houston Buyer's Club, and the Program for Wellness Restoration (PoWeR). Founded in 1988, the mission of Body Positive/Houston is "to empower individuals challenged by HIV to actively manage their lives and health for maximum productivity and quality of life."

Houston Children to Benefit From Toy Drives

HOUSTON - The Houston Steering Committee of the Human Rights Campaign launched its "We Love Mickey" project is currently underway. Donations of Walt Disney toys as well as financial contributions are being collected at Basic Brothers, 232 Westheimer and at Custom Valet Cleaners, 1900 S. Shepherd.

Disney has come under recent criticism from conservative groups due to its acceptance and appreciation of the diversity of its employees and customers. "We Love Mickey" ends on Sunday, November 30, 1997. Proceeds will be collected and distributed to children at local organizations and hospitals in and around the Houston area on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 1997.

In addition to the HRC toy campaign, AIDS Foundation Houston, the Alley Theatre, Texas Children's Hospital and the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center have announced their plans for the 3rd Annual Red Ribbon Toy Drive, scheduled Nov. 24 through Dec. 12. Houstonians are asked to bring new unwrapped toys to AIDS Foundation Houston (3202 Weslayan Annex), Evan Thayer Studios (2643 Colquitt) or Giovanni (4444 Montrose). You may also bring toys to the Alley Theatre box office (615 Texas) and receive a 20 percent discount for up to four tickets to select performances of the Alley's annual production of "Christmas Carol."

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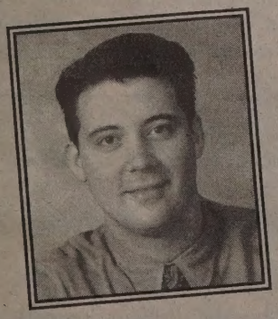

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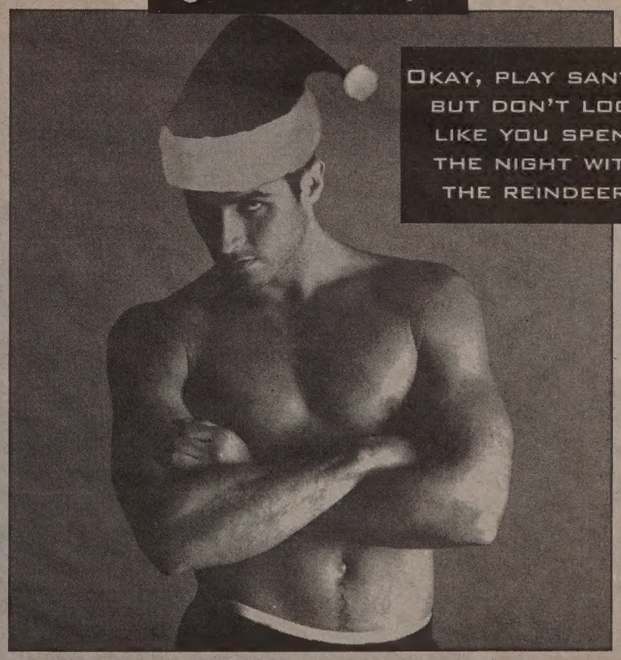

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Southwest States Grapple With Issue of Gay Parenting

ARIZONA - While in Texas, child welfare officials are defending a policy allowing gay men and lesbians to be foster and adoptive parents, in Arizona, the governor is questioning gay foster parenting, saying gay people do not fall into her definition of a "very normal, stable family."

Last week, Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) spokeswoman Linda Edwards said that the primary criteria for qualifying to be a foster and adoptive parents is an ability to "nurture and parent a child," not sexual orientation. The explanation comes as another CPS employee, Rebecca Bledsoe, threatened a lawsuit against the department after being demoted for violating numerous CPS policies by removing a foster child from the care of a lesbian couple, citing the state sodomy law.

Meanwhile, in Arizona, Child Protective Services do not currently inquire about an applicant's sexual orientation, and Governor Jane Hull is calling for an examination into the criteria for foster parent selection that may deny gay people the chance to be foster parent.

"It's tragic that some politicians haven't examined the facts about gay and lesbian parents," said Tim Fisher of Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI). "We applaud the Texas Child Protective Services for realizing that the children must come first. Every child has a right to a loving home, regardless of a parent's sexual orientation."

Hormel Nomination Held Until 1998

WASHINGTON D.C. - According to a UPI report, the Senate has decided to carry into next year President Clinton's controversial choice of James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg. Hormel's name was on a list of judicial and executive nominees the Senate decided last week to keep in suspended animation over a recess until January 1998.

The White House told UPI that it appears Hormel's nomination has been held over because he is openly gay. At least five other ambassadorial nominees who underwent a subcommittee hearing at the same time as Hormel have been cleared by the Senate.

Republican Senators James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, have acknowledged they are among those with objections, citing concerns about Hormel's past affiliations with gay activist groups.

Report:Adults Fail to Protect Students from Anti-Gay Harassment

WASHINGTON STATE - Safe Schools, a statewide coalition of 90 organizations, released a study last week revealing the profound failure of many adults in schools to address the anti-gay harassment faced by students.

In the past 4 years, 91 incidents were reported, including 8 gang rapes, 19 physical assaults, 14 cases of physical harassment and/or sexual abuse short of rape and 34 cases of ongoing verbal or physical harassment. Eight of the cases involved adults who were approached for help, but who then offended the youth or actively contributed to their harassment. One teacher told a young man, after his classmates spit on him, "Maybe you should do more push-ups. What's the matter, don't you like girls?"

In incidents where teens or children were targets, about one-fourth had adult witnesses. According to Beth Reis, from the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health and author of the report, "In half of those cases, the adults stood by in silence. What young people are telling us, loudly and clearly, is that they feel abandoned by the very adults whose job it is to protect them."

Alaska Men Want to Throw Out Same-Sex Marriage Ban

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Alaska state law passed in 1996 specifically bans same-sex marriages, and state policy before then has blocked it. But Jay Brause and Gene Dugan are asking the state court to declare the law unconstitutional, and to force the state to formally recognize their 20-year relationship - something only Hawaii now does.

In arguments last Friday before Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski, an attorney for Brause and Dugan said the state is punishing the men by refusing to grant them a marriage license.

More than 100 state statues provide rights or protections to married couples, but they're not available to homosexuals who live together in a long-term relationship, said attorney Robert Wagstaff. Those rights include the ability of spouses to sue for wrongful death, to share in a spouses assets in case of death and to be included in health insurance policies.

Cammermeyer Will Run for Congress

WASHINGTON STATE (AP) - Margarethe Cammermeyer, who successfully fought the National Guard's attempts to discharge her for being a lesbian, plans to run for Congress.

"As a mother of four, grandmother of five, nurse and soldier, I feel like I understand the issues facing families as they struggle to make ends meet," said Cammermeyer, a Democrat.

Cammermeyer, 55, recently retired from the Washington Army National Guard as a colonel and filed last Monday to seek the western Washington seat held by two-term Republican Rep. Jack Metcalf.

Emory Trustees OK Some Gay Marriages

ATLANTA (AP) - Methodist-affiliated Emory University will allow gay couples to say "marriage" or commitment vows in its chapels under strictly limited circumstances that will effectively exclude most campus homosexu-

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als - including Methodists.

The policy, approved Thursday by the by Emory board of trustees, requires that a religious leader from one of the 24 religious groups on campus perform such a ceremony, chaplain Susan Henry-Crowe said.

Of those 24 groups, only the Reformed Jewish leader and the United Church of Christ leader have agreed to and now perform ceremonies for gay couples, she said.

Gays No Longer Branded as Molesters

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Men branded as sex offenders decades ago for consensual homosexual acts with other adults can now remove their names from a list used to compile a public registry of rapists and molesters.

California's Megan's Law requires that dangerous sex criminals register and allows the public to see their names and whereabouts. When the state Department of Justice compiled a list of 64,000 criminals covered by the law, it included people convicted as far back as 1944, a time when gays were prosecuted for consensual acts between adults.

"Ellen" Still Labeled by Parental Advisory

LOS ANGELOS - Last week's airing of the ABC sitcom "Ellen" once again bore the evening's only parental warning for "objectionable" material due to its lesbian and gay content. The episode, which did not have any overt sexual content or violence, did feature hugs and same-sex hand holding. In the two shows proceeding "Ellen" that night, "Dharma & Greg" had sex in a parked car, and "Drew Carey" stripped in a *Full Monty* parody. Neither featured any parental warning.

Drug Approval, Nondiscrimination Highlight 105th Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)— As 1997 draws to a close the 105th U.S. Congress has approved of the first major change in the drug approval process in decades, passing a Food and Drug Administration bill that will speed up reviews of new drugs and medical devices and make it easier for people to get experimental drugs for life-threatening diseases.

Legislation is also still pending that would outlaw employment discrimination against gays. The measure sponsored by Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., would make it illegal for employers to make personnel decisions based on an individual's sexual orientation. A similar bill suffered a narrow defeat in the Senate in 1996 when it lost by one vote.

"Tranny Fest" Marks First-Ever Transgendered Film Festival

On November 22 in San Francisco, the Roxie Cinema in San Francisco will host the first-ever transgender film festival. The festival will serve as the finale to a week-long "Tranny Week" in the city, with panel discussions, performances and parties from November 17-22. Featured films at the festival include: "Trappings of Transhood," "Kings of New York," "Wanted Alive: Teresita," and "La Campesina and Shotgun," among many others.

"Horseback Evangelist" Pleads Case

ST. PAUL, Minn. - The Minnesota State Supreme Court is considering a bias-motivated harassment case against a self-described evangelist who waded into a gay pride parade on horseback and hurled insults at the participants, the UPI news agency reports.

The "horseback evangelist," Kurtis Dean Machholz of Rochester, Minn., says the anti-harassment felony law under which he was charged is unconstitutional. A trial court agreed but that ruling was reversed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals in March.

Machholz admits trying to disperse the group, telling participants the gay lifestyle is "going against God's will," accusing them of being responsible for AIDS and corrupting children, and saying there were no homosexuals in heaven.

Montel Williams Sued for Harassment

NEW YORK (AP) - Talk show host Montel Williams is being sued for sexual harassment by his former executive assistant, a homosexual who claims Williams subjected him to "sexually offensive conduct."

The suit, filed Friday by Ernesto Medina, claimed that Williams ridiculed the employee over his sexual orientation, gave him embarrassing "sex toys" and grabbed his buttocks.

A Williams spokesman, Sean Cassidy, said the syndicated talk-show host "vehemently denied" the charges.

Researchers: HIV Hides in Cells

WASHINGTON (AP) - A drug "cocktail" that revolutionized the treatment of AIDS is unable to wipe out reservoirs of virus hiding in certain blood cells, researchers find in a discovery that dims hopes for a cure. The finding means that patients may have to take the AIDS drugs for the rest of their lives, while hoping for new types of treatment to stamp out the final traces of infection by the virus that causes the disease.

Three separate teams of scientists reported finding evidence that the HIV virus lurks in inactive white blood cells in patients who have been taking the drug cocktail for up to three years and seem otherwise virtually free of the virus.

All three of the studies found the latent virus in what are called 'resting' CD4 lymphocytes. These are immune system white blood cells that are primed to defend against antigens from bacteria or from other foreign molecules. Until they encounter antigens that are their specific target, the blood cells are inactive, or 'resting.'

While many may view this news as "bad," the Treatment Action Group (TAG), an AIDS activist group dedicated to finding effective treatments, is holding onto one hopeful sign.

"In these (studies), we see the scientific process working in ways that will help improve anti-HIV treatment," said Mark Harrington, policy director for the group. "Potent combinations of anti-HIV treatments have been shown to extend health and survival - people with HIV can expect improved length and quality of life. Meanwhile, these studies show that researchers are working to find out where HIV is hiding within the body, and to find ways to speed clearance of the disease," he added.

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S.A. Black Tie Dinner to Raise Funds for National, State, Local Organizations

By Joe Patrick Bean
TRIANGLE Staff

SAN ANTONIO - A national AIDS advocate and the mother of TV's hottest lesbian star will headline the ninth annual San Antonio Black Tie Dinner this weekend.

Mary Fisher, founder of the Family AIDS Network and author of **My Name Is Mary**, and Betty DeGeneres, mother of sitcom star Ellen DeGeneres and national coming out spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, will be the top speakers at Saturday night's "Out on the Town" banquet at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel.

Fisher, a TV producer, artist and assistant to former President Gerald Ford, electrified the 1992 Republican National Convention and listeners nationwide when she called for compassion for all people with AIDS - a stark contrast to the homophobia of other convention speakers such as Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson.

The Black Tie Dinner will present community service awards to the late Larry Bloom, a graphic artist and long-time community organizer; Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas; and Hope Action Care, formerly known as the Hispanic AIDS Committee, the Alamo City's second-oldest HIV/AIDS agency, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Donna Red Wing, HRC's national field director, also will present a report on the organization's activities, including efforts to lobby Congress to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

This year's dinner co-chairs are Cecil Start and Mark Board. Randy Escamilla, an award-winning reporter for KMOL-TV Channel 4, San Antonio's NBC affiliate, will emcee the event. An ensemble of the Alamo City Men's Chorale will provide entertainment.

Organizers are anticipating an attendance of 600 for the dinner. Last year, a record 586 attended, raising $50,000 for HRC and nine other local, state and national gay-lesbian and AIDS organizations. This year, 11 groups have qualified as beneficiary organizations to share in proceeds from the dinner, including the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, San Antonio AIDS Foundation and the San Antonio Equal Rights Political Caucus.

U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, will top the list of local dignitaries in attendance. All six Democrats - Maria Berriozabal, Armando Falcon, Charles Gonzalez, Christine Hernandez, Walter Martinez and Steve Walker - vying to succeed U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez will be honorary co-chairs of the dinner. The veteran San Antonio Democratic politician and civil rights crusader earlier this year announced his retirement from Congress.

Former Mayor Bill Thornton and his wife, Carolyn, will also be at the event. Last year, Thornton became the first sitting mayor to attend a San Antonio Black Tie Dinner, and the Thorntons remain active advocates of lesbian-gay rights. This year, Mayor Howard Peak is expected to attend the reception and silent auction preceding the dinner.

A Friday night VIP cocktail party at Magnolia's on Main will feature HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch and entertainment by popular San Antonio jazz crooner Ken Slavin, who regularly donates his time and talent to local gay-lesbian and AIDS causes.

On Sunday afternoon, Red Wing and HRC southern field director Tony Esoldo will lead a workshop on "Community Building and Political Activism" at Magnolia Gardens. The event will run from 2 to 5 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The workshop will equip local leaders to be better communicators within the lesbian-gay community and more effective advocates in building alliances with political, civic, business and religious leaders outside the community.

Tickets are $50 for the Friday night VIP cocktail party and $145 for the Saturday night Black Tie Dinner. Call the dinner hotline at (210) 496-2397.

Mary Fisher, founder of the Family AIDS Network and author of *My Name Is Mary*

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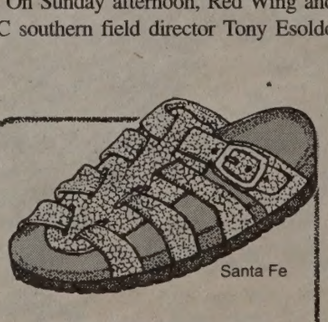
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The Texas Triangle

Montrose Counseling Center Celebrates 20 Years of Service and Support

By Nancy Ford
TRIANGLE Staff

HOUSTON - A lot can happen in 20 years: In 1978 Jimmy Carter was president. AIDS was a diet candy. Sonny Bono was in show business. And the Montrose Counseling Center was born.

As previously unheard-of terms like t-cells, gay bashing, protease inhibitors, and internalized homophobia became frequently-used language in Houston's gay and lesbian households, Montrose Counseling Center (MCC) responded with flexibility and expansion. At last count its staff and volunteers have counseled over 12,000 individual clients, have provided over 90,000 hours of counseling and case management services, and have reached nearly 100,000 through sensitivity training and HIV/AIDS education.

"In 1978, it had only been about five years since the American Psychiatric Association took homosexuality off the list of mental disorders, " said Brian Tognotti, Development and Marketing Manager for the MCC. "A group of therapists (headed by Bill Scott) realized that...there was still prejudice in the industry, and very few places for gay and lesbians to go," he added.

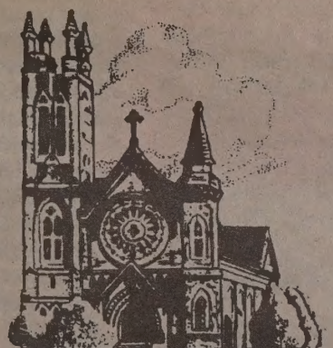
In 1983 MCC began outreach to the HIV/AIDS community by offering its first weekly support groups for persons diagnosed with AIDS. By 1989, MCC had become one of seven original HIV management sites in Harris County. "It was a very scary time," said Miles Glaspy, LMSW-ACP and member of the Centers' Clinical Advisory Board. "A lot of the organizing around HIV/AIDS was centered around MCC, including a number of the therapists (who) were instrumental in founding other agencies and programs in response to the epidemic," he added.

Tognotti stressed MCC's commitment to the health and well-being of the gay and lesbian community specifically. "I think that's somewhat of an important accomplishment, certainly in terms of the fact that there aren't that many gay counseling centers throughout the country." In Austin, counseling and support is available for gay men and lesbians at Waterloo Counseling Center.

"Oaklawn Community Services is in Dallas, although its scope is beyond mental health," Tognotti said, but MCC has specifically "always had a commitment to...mental health. Counseling has always been our specialty and what we think of as our expertise, in terms of people with HIV. We think it's incredibly important that people living with the disease have a positive mental attitude. It's been proven in study after study that it has a positive impact on the immune system," he explained.

As it looks to the future, MCC continues to respond to the evolving needs of Houston's gay and lesbian community: The HIV/AIDS Counseling Program offers individual, couples and group counseling to persons living with HIV, their caregivers, and families. The Chemical Dependency Treatment Program offers outpatient substance abuse treatment, including an 8-week intensive course followed by aftercare. The LIFE program offers individual, couples, and group counseling on issues of personal growth, relationships, depression, and coming out. And services are now available to survivors of hate crimes, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. In conjunction with Montrose Clinic, MCC is now conducting an outreach project that will bring life-saving information on breast cancer prevention to lesbians over 40.

But MCC's original focus on the mental health issues of Houston's gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual community remains constant. "Those of us who have gone through the coming out process know that it is a process, it is something that you have to go through, and it takes some struggle and suffering along the way to get through it," said Tognotti. "The notion that we could have gay people helping other gay people through that process is the central idea behind the center. It's the community helping the community."



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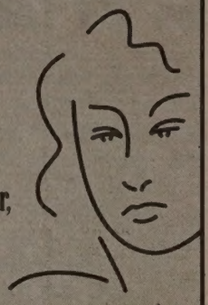

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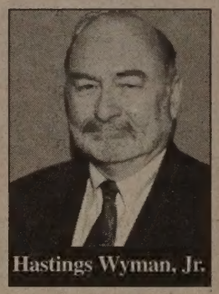


Hastings Wyman, Jr.

Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D), who wants to be elected House Speaker in 1998 and President in 2000, invited a delegation of lesbian and gay leaders to lunch on October 29 in the Minority Leader's US Capitol office. An activist in attendance noted Gephardt made positive comments about helping get more cosponsors for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), incorporating more gay-friendly themes in his speeches around the country, recruiting openly gay candidates, legislating consumer protections for managed health care and changing the eligibility requirements for Medicare from full-blown AIDS to HIV infection. The luncheon was one of a series Gephardt is hosting "with constituencies of the party," noted Gephardt's Chief of Staff Steve Elmendorf, who adds that the events get the Missouri congressman "exposed beyond talking to (U.S. House) members all day long." Those attending represented the usual suspects: the Human Rights Campaign, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, AIDS Action, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, LLEGO, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Solidarity Forever

Originally, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank's (D-MA) bill providing domestic partner benefits for federal employees in unwedded bliss applied only to same-sex couples, on the premises that since lesbian and gay couples aren't allowed to marry, denying them the benefits available to other government workers constituted discrimination. However, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the nation's largest public employee union, would not agree to support Frank's bill unless it applied to unmarried heterosexuals as well. So Frank broadened his bill so that it would apply to straights who cohabit without benefit of matrimony.

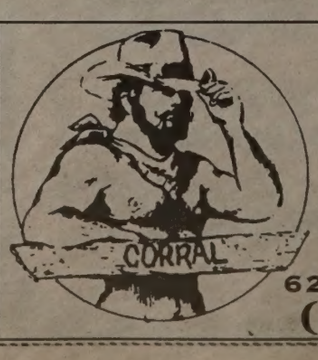
Now, AFGE and two other major government unions - the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union - are backing the bill. Frank also brought along a big business contingent, including Microsoft and Time-Warner, as well as Harvard University. Barney says it's noteworthy that not a single company that has adopted such a policy has rescinded it because it was too expensive.

Incidentally, *George* magazine has named the openly gay congressman to its list of Worst Dressed Men in Washington. Barney noted the irony in "being called 'worst dressed' by the least dressed," a reference to publisher JFK, Jr.'s beefcakey photo in a recent issue of *George*.

Mixed Signals for ENDA

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the subject of hearings last month before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, is getting major muscle from gay organizations in the nation's capital. A gay staff member of a key congressional committee, however, when asked if ENDA can pass Congress this year, replied firmly, "No; maybe the Senate, but not the House." Indeed, ENDA is already close to passage in the Senate, with favorable commitments from 49 senators plus tie-breaker Gore - a coalition of most of the Democrats and a small but crucial group of moderate Republicans. And the House could loosen up in a year or two - with either '98 or '00 on his mind, Minority Leader Gephardt has pledged that if the Democrats win a majority in the House next year, ENDA will pass. Stay tuned.

Hastings Wyman, Jr. has been a DC insider for more than three decades. He publishes the Southern Political Report, a non-partisan biweekly political newsletter. He can be reached care of this publication or at HWymanSPR@aol.com



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AMANDA

By Amanda B. Recondwith

PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER

This is the cold and flu season, Dear Fans, and even though Amanda is the super vixen editrix diva of the universe, she does get her seasonal bouts of viral ickiness just like every other mortal. Every year we get the same stuff, and every year we get the same prescription from our dear Dr. Jack, so we saw no danger ahead as we called Walgreens on Montrose Blvd. to see if our medicine was ready.

Mind you, when Walgreens built that enormous store with the drive-in pharmacy that takes up the whole block, Amanda was a bit apprehensive. It was built at the tail end of the economic bust, and we were not particularly happy that the two major construction jobs going on in the neighborhood at the time were a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases and a super drugstore! But we've learned to accept it, and now we can barely remember the building that once towered on that block before it was torn down and made into a parking lot.

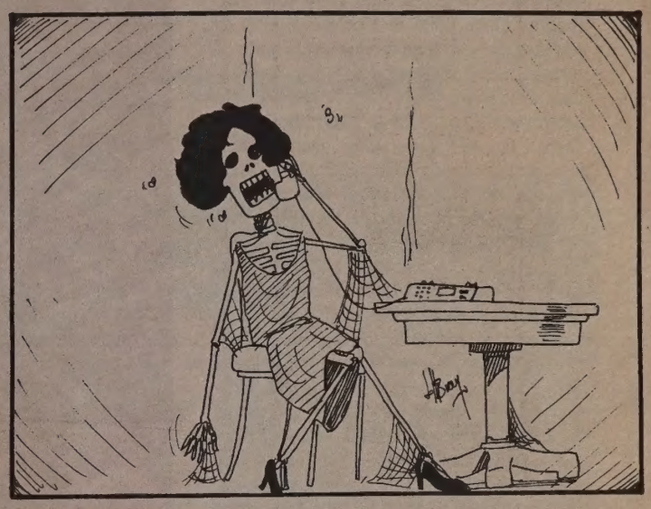
We made our call and the phone rang and rang and rang before we were told to hold. We held for about 15 minutes, then hung up and called again. Once again, we were told to hold, and we did this again for another 15 minutes before we hung up. When we dialed again, we got a busy signal, and the line stayed busy for about a half hour. Then we called and asked for the pharmacy's main number and called that and was put on hold for another 10 minutes before we hung up. When we again called, we asked for the pharmacy manager. Mind you, Dear Fans; by this time, Amanda's hair was beginning to stand on end, and we had nearly chewed two layers of Fucia-U Hyperpink gloss off our lips.

Well, it seems there was no pharmacy manager in that day, so I asked for the store manager, and was naturally put on hold, where we were promptly cut off! We hung up and called the store's main number again and when we were once again told we would be put on hold, we told the girl on the line that if we were once again disconnected, we would personally make her wish Walgreens had installed Luby Berms at their entrance!

Fortunately, the manager came after five minutes, and we tactfully yet forcefully told him what we had been through. He put us on hold for 10 minutes, then came back and said our prescription had been called in. When we asked the price, he said he didn't know, and if I called back in 30 minutes, he'd tell me.

We hung up and wept, Dear Fans. Then, an hour later, we jumped in the car and went to the convenient Walgreens Drive-In to pick up our medication. The girl at the window could not fathom the intercom, Dear Fans. She yelled at us through a speaker in aisle Three, even though we were in aisle One, right at the window! But after getting our message across, she disappeared for - you guessed it again! - 10 minutes. Then she told us the store didn't have "the active ingredients" available, and would we like her to check any other pharmacy?

By this time, we had gnawed a huge chunk out of our steering wheel and were foaming down our RuPaul bustier. We told her to call Eckerd Drugs across the street. She was gone another 10 minutes and came back to tell us Eckerd didn't have it either! She suggested Walgreens on West Gray, so we bid her to do so and waited another 10 minutes. Meanwhile, another pharmacist was busy denying another hapless person his prescription in aisle Two by speaking through the speaker in aisle Four, and he drove off very unhappily in a cloud of burning rubber. Amanda's girl finally came back and said the West Gray Walgreens had our prescription, but it wouldn't be ready for at least an hour!



We drove home and collapsed in a heap of tulle and tears, Dear Fans! The next day, we finally had enough strength gathered to get our prescription, but we had to wonder. What if we were crippled, or senile, or just plain confused or frail? If it was such a hassle getting our prescription when we're a big healthy alert adult in the prime of life, what must it be like for those less fortunate than us?

We hope Walgreens makes note of this experience, Dear Fans. Meanwhile, we may hesitate before we pop by their convenient store again.

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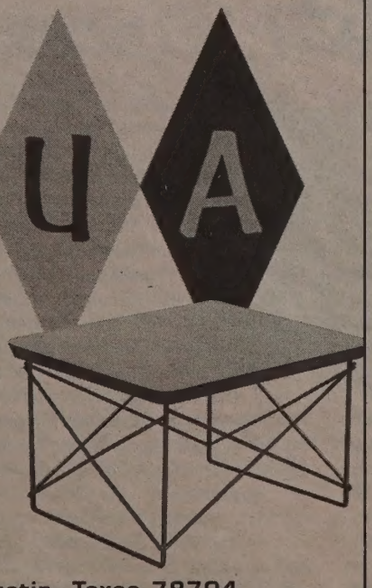

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Knowing Why

A Caged Bird Sings

A Profile of Author, Poet and Speaker, Maya Angelou

By Cheryl Coward
Contributing Writer

In recent years it has actually become rather fashionable for heterosexual celebrities to become allies to the gay community. Open, loud and proud support of lesbians and gay men has taken the place of wearing a red ribbon for AIDS awareness. Gay leaders no longer solely rely on gay celebrities like Martina Navratilova and Greg Louganis when they need a well-known face to rally a cause. But there are a few exceptional notables who haven't picked up the baton for gay civil rights in just the last few years of the millennium. One prime example is Maya Angelou - who has been championing the equal treatment of gays and lesbians decades before it became a marketing or political trend.

Angelou's eloquent poetry and prose is steeped in the African American oral tradition and has mesmerized diverse audiences for many years. A truly multi-talented individual, Angelou is perhaps best known for her series of autobiographical memoirs, most notably *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and her 1993 Inaugural poem "On the Pulse of Morning." Hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gay men shared a collective moment of admiration and pride as she recited, with the world watching, the poem which called for all the world's diverse communities, including gays, to work together for peace.

Since her activist days in the African American civil rights movement in the late 1960s, where she worked alongside gay civil rights workers including James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin, Angelou has championed causes of the oppressed. And she was a dance partner of the late Alvin Ailey when they were both struggling dance students in New York City in the 1960s.

But like many heterosexual supporters of gay rights, Angelou wasn't always so open minded. The 69 year-old celebrated novelist/poet/performer/director harbored more than a few homophobic attitudes as a youth. She chronicles the changes in her attitude towards lesbians and gay men in memoirs beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Angelou was raised by her grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas except for a brief time spent with her mother in St. Louis. She moved to California as a teenager - first to San Francisco and later to Los Angeles. As a puberty-ridden teenager in San Francisco, Angelou was obsessed with lesbianism especially after reading the *Well of Loneliness* which she considered then to be pornography. "It allowed me to see the mysterious world of the pervert," Angelou wrote in her first memoir. In her teenage angst, she confuses lesbianism with hermaphrodites and therefore becomes a "bleeding heart for the downtrodden misunderstood lesbians." At the same time, Angelou ruled out "the jolly sissies" she knew from being perverts since "everyone accepted them" and they accepted themselves. "But the true freaks, the 'women lovers,' captured yet strained my imagination," she wrote. At sixteen, she proves that she isn't a lesbian by losing her virginity in a calculated manner and subsequently becomes pregnant. "The little pleasure I was able to take from the fact that if I could have a baby I obviously wasn't a lesbian...," she wrote of her teenaged reasoning. A few years later and still a teenager, Angelou wrote that "lesbians still interested me but I no longer felt tenderly protective of them" in her second biographical memoir *Gather Together In My Name*. Angelou encounters a lesbian couple and is completely revolted. "They were lesbians, that was sinful enough," she wrote of the couple who tried to seduce her "but they were also inconsiderate, stupid bitches."

Angelou's views have obviously evolved quite a bit since those teenage years. It was during her work with Baldwin, Rustin and performances with Ailey coupled with world travel that etched those homophobic views from her mind. In fact, she credits James Baldwin with encouraging her to write her memoirs and has been vocal about how she feels indebted to him and his work. She even wrote a poem dedicated to Baldwin and Ailey in her 1990 poetry collection *I Shall Not Be Moved*.

Angelou is also the author of three collections of essays in which she includes topics such as universal acceptance of all people including gays and the AIDS crises. In *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, she celebrates differences in race, ethnicity and sexual "persuasion" in her essay "Living Well, Living Good." Love and acceptance are themes that have permeated all of her recent work and it seems the older she gets the more outspoken she becomes of her belief in the universality of the human race.

But her loving stance has incurred the wrath of one of the most virulent homophobes - Rev. Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Phelps is best known for protesting at the funerals AIDS victims with signs reading "God Hates Fags" as well as his intermittent web site www.godhatesfags.com. In 1994 he began targeting Angelou and former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders with anti-gay demonstrations at their appearances in the Kansas City area. Calling Angelou, who is actually married to a man, a "black female dyke poet" promoting a "militant sodomite agenda," Phelps staged a demonstration, made up mostly of his church members, in Topeka during a December 1994 appearance by the writer. He vowed to follow her "fag-show around like an ugly dog." Approximately a month later, Phelps showed up at another Angelou appearance in St. Louis. This time, however, he was met with a counter demonstration by the St. Louis chapter of the Lesbian Avengers. Nevertheless, Phelps' anti-gay activities did lead Angelou to cancel a scheduled appearance in Emporia Kansas in the spring of 1995.

Amid such harassment, Angelou continues to hold court with various - and sometimes diametrically opposed - organizations and groups. She supported Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court reasoning that "he is young enough to be won over again." She is one of the only black women who can garner enough respect to share the stage with members of the Nation of Islam at the Million Man March and then appear soon after at a conference of gay choral groups and elicit equally enthusiastic responses from both audiences. And at a fundraiser for San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown during his run-off race in 1995, she shared a table with Roberta Achtenberg where the two were visibly having a good time in each other's company.

Despite the fact that Angelou and numerous other prominent African Americans such as Coretta Scott King have been vocal supporters of equal rights for gays, there is still an outspoken group of African American homophobes who in their are ardent support of Angelou remain strident enemies of gays. With the recent flaps involving anti-gay remarks by Dr. Martin Luther King's niece, Alveda, and gospel duo Angie and Debbie Winans unabashed disdain for gays, a line appears to forming which may force many prominent African Americans to decide on whose side they will stand if an all-out morality war breaks out. On the one hand, there are entertainers, politicians and artists who vow that they will not support any form of homophobia. On the other, there are those like the Winans sisters, Louis Farrakhan and many ministers of considerable influence who are relentless in their anti-gay stances.

As battle lines are drawn, Angelou has already shown in both written and spoken words where she will stand if forced to choose sides in the growing dispute.

Major Coup for Dallas Black Tie

Despite Busy Schedule, Maya Angelou to Appear This Weekend

By Cheryl Coward
Contributing Writer

Dallas Black Tie Dinner Committee members feel that they have accomplished a major coup in securing renowned author Maya Angelou as the keynote speaker for their sixteenth annual fundraiser. "We are all thrilled that Maya will be speaking," said committee member Kathy Hewitt of Angelou's scheduled appearance this weekend.

And they have every right to be thrilled. Managed by Lordly & Dame of Boston, Angelou is in high demand on the lecture circuit and commands top billings with bookings extending more than a year in advance.

If that wasn't daunting enough, Angelou herself, by all reports, wasn't expecting to be back on the lecture circuit this soon. She has recently completed directing a movie in Toronto, *Down in the Delta*, which is scheduled to be broadcast on Showtime in February. According to *USA Today*, Angelou wanted to spend the fall editing the movie before getting back on the road. In fact, she had not planned to do anything but work on the film until December.

But when your dinner falls mere weeks after the historic Washington dinner appearance of President Clinton - the first ever appearance by a sitting president - you can't let a little thing like scheduling details get in the way. Especially not in Texas, where everything is, as they say, bigger and better.

With an anticipated 3,000 guests for this Saturday's event, the Dallas Black Tie Dinner is the largest fundraiser in the nation for the Human Rights Campaign. Dinner keynote speakers have traditionally been politicians but this year the committee broke with that tradition and chose Angelou. "She adds a totally new dimension to our dinner," said Hewitt.

"Dr. Angelou was an easy choice for us," said Committee Co-Chair Jan Vaughn Mock. "She represents so much of what is right about the world - and so much about where the world and its people should be. Her enlightened perspective on humanity, compassion, and spirituality dovetails perfectly with the message we intend to send through the dinner event, and through its guests."

The multi-dimensional Angelou is internationally known for a wide range of accomplishments. Her autobiography I *Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is the longest-running title on The New York Times Paperback Nonfiction Bestseller list. She is also an accomplished actress, singer and songwriter with a Grammy award and both Emmy and Tony Award nominations under her belt. She is known for enchanting audiences with her voice whether she is reciting poetry, singing, giving a reading or simply speaking. Her voice is resonant and her words move diverse multi-ethnic crowds all over the country.

> She adds a totally new dimension to our dinner.
>
> — Kathy Hewitt, Dallas Black Tie committee member

In addition to her performance credits, Angelou is an outspoken advocate of the rights of lesbians and gay men. She has also been an active supporter of numerous HIV/AIDS organizations.

"We're honored and proud to host Dr. Angelou this year - and hope that our guests take something away from the evening that will enrich their lives in a meaningful way," said Vaughn Mock.

The Dallas Black Tie Dinner benefits 18 local gay, lesbian and AIDS service organizations as well as the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. It will be held Saturday, November 22, at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel. Cocktails and a silent auction begin at 6 p.m. and the dinner program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Dallas Black Tie Lends A Helping Hand

"A Hand In Giving"- This year's theme for the Dallas Black Tie Dinner - draws attention to the many beneficiaries the event supports. But this phrase is brought to life through another of the dinner's programs known simply as Helping Hands.

The Helping Hands Scholarship Fund provides tickets to the $200 per person Black Tie Dinner for people who could not otherwise afford to go. And while affording financially disadvantaged people the opportunity to attend the elegant event, Helping Hands promotes unity, diversity, and a sense of community.

Beginning in 1994 the dinner committee in Dallas resolved to provide a minimum of one percent of the total attendance to their gala affair with a free ticket. According to Bill Justice, Helping Hands Scholarship committee member, this decision only managed to organize a long-standing practice.

"Providing dinner tickets to people who could not afford to attend Black Tie has gone on informally for years. Friends, neighbors, and employers have been inviting and paying for people to come to the dinner since it began. In '94 we made it a formal program and made a commitment to provide scholarship tickets for at least one percent of the total audience," said Justice.

Helping Hands Scholarship candidates are nominated by Black Tie Dinner beneficiary organizations. Each group is allowed to nominate two males and two females which are then reviewed by the committee. Recipients are selected from the nominees based on their need and qualifications.

"Originally we tried to go out and find people who were in financial need, but we decided it would be better to let the beneficiaries nominate candidates because they have a greater knowledge of potential candidates as many of them are their clients" Justice said. "We also believe this practice is a good opportunity for the beneficiaries to feel they are more a part of the overall process."

In addition to being unable to afford a dinner ticket, candidates most always fall into one of three categories, either being minority, terminally ill, or young/student. According to Justice these criteria make the Helping Hands program not only a chartable practice but also a tool of diversity.

"This program gives all of us a better experience at the dinner because it allows us a sense of community and diversity. The Dallas dinner is an empowering celebration and it makes it more complete when all of our community can be a part of it. We want everyone to be empowered by this dinner. It is an amazing experience."

> We want everyone to be empowered by this dinner. It is an amazing experience.
>
> — Bill Justice, Helping Hands Scholarship committee member

Justice gives several examples where the Helping Hands program has left an everlasting impression on its recipients. "We've discovered that after having this experience once, people resolve to save up their money to be able to buy their own ticket the next year. We have Black Tie Committee Members who received money from Helping Hands while they were in college and have now really devoted themselves to this event."

Providing a ticket to those who will eventually become a supporter of the dinner is important, but Justice says helping a person who is terminally ill to attend the event is unforgettable. "It has turned out time and time again that Helping Hands has been the only opportunity a terminally ill person would have to attend this event. If it wasn't for this program they never would have experienced how wonderful it is. It feels good to know you have helped a brother or sister enjoy one of the last nice events they would attend in this life."

Funding for Helping Hands Scholarships comes primarily from Table Captains and their guests donating money at the time they purchase their tickets. Donations are accepted throughout the year, however, and may be made by contacting the Dallas Black Tie Dinner Committee or one of its members.

Art At A Glance

Contributors include Hope Johnson for Austin, Nancy Ford for Houston and Christopher Peake for Dallas.

In Austin...

Sharir Celebrates "Past and Present" in 15th Season

It isn't very often that we miss an opportunity to talk about the fascinating and dramatic work that occurs over at Austin's Sharir Dance Company (SDC). And the production that kicked off their fifteenth season - José Luis Bustamante: Past and Present - once again proves that they have not lost their touch.

The performances this past weekend featured artistic co-director Bustamante's vision in three repertory works and two new dramatic premieres: *Frédérican*, which featured the music of Chopin, and *Songs of Sea*. In the latter, Bustamante explored the powerful imagery of the ocean and its various inhabitants through both music and 'fluid' choreography.

To find out more about SDC's upcoming season which includes a total of 4 productions, contact the group at 512-458-8158 or by email at sharir@mail.utexas.edu

Authentic Musical Theater Graces Paramount Stage

This is your last chance to catch Austin Musical Theater's re-vamp of the Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim classic "West Side Story." The production is directed by the group's founders Scott Thompson and Richard Byron, who have worked nationally with several of Broadway's talents. Seeing how the pair managed to fit 44 cast members on the Paramount's small stage just might be worth the price of admission itself. While the duo has relied on national performers for the major roles, Austin performers from the Austin Ballet do round out the cast nicely. Add to that mixture a lavish set designed by Christopher McCollum and a full orchestra to give justice to Bernstein's genius and it looks like AMT has put together another winner to follow last season's award-winning "Peter Pan" production.

This is the last weekend though, so grab your tickets for Friday or Saturday evening at 8 p.m. or the 3 p.m. matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday by calling 512-469-7469 or stopping by the Paramount Box Office. For more information call 512-472-5411. (HJ)

In Houston...

dos chicas Helps Steven's House With Harold's House

dos chicas productions presents a unique Terry Gilliam-ish interpretation of Harold Pinter's The Hothouse, a black comedy about a government penal institution for the criminally insane. It's Christmas, and a power struggle for control of the institution ensues after one patient is murdered and another gives birth under, well, unusual circumstances. While the Orwelian government exerts its control, corruption, torture, and murder erupt as the immoral staff battle to find their place "in the order of things."

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Steven's House, an intermediate care residence for people with HIV/AIDS. Receive $1 off the $8 admission price with a non-perishable food donation. Fridays and Saturdays, through Dec. 6 at 8pm; Zocalo Theater, 5223 Feagan. 713-862-1626.

Last Call for Two Gay One - Acts at Little Room Downstairs

Little Room Downstairs' Artistic Director Richard Laub directs two one-acts by two of gay theater's best-known playwrights, Harvey Fierstein and Lanford Wilson. Wilson describes his The Madness of Lady Bright as a "Screaming, preening queen goes stark raving mad on stage one hot Sunday afternoon." Known as the 'first gay play' "Madness" is a darkly humorous and tragic look at an outrageous drag queen in the pre-Stonewall world of the 1960s. Features Gregory Brown as Lady Bright.

Harvey Fierstein's Forget Him is a whimsical tribute to romance featuring a frustrated gay man who tries to return his lover of four years to the wise-cracking matchmaker who set them up in the first place. Unfortunately the matchmaker now refuses to honor his money-back guarantee. Weekends through Nov. 22; The Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar and Kirby. 713-523-0791.

The Ensemble Theatre Presents Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity"

More than theatre, more than spectacle, more than Christmas, "Black Nativity" delivers an insightful and heartfelt message about the dilemmas imposed upon us when faced with crisis. "Black Nativity" is the story of the birth of Christ told in dialogue, narrative, pantomime, gospel songs, and spirituals embracing this unique adaptation of Langston Hughes' creation.

Guest director Jesse Wooden, Jr. also directed the 1997 Obie award-winning production of this play at St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where he directs the Drama Ministry. Musical direction by Horace A. Young, choreography by Darla Dunn.

"Black Nativity" previews Nov. 20-23, and Nov. 29, and runs through Dec. 28. A special brunch is offered on Sundays beginning Nov. 30. The $21.50 ticket price includes brunch at 1pm, a matinee performance at 3pm, dessert at intermission and complimentary valet parking. Other ticket prices are $12 (previews and Thursdays), $18 (Fridays and Saturdays), and $18 (Sundays, performance only). Students and seniors tickets are $10 at all times. Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street, 713-520-0055. (NF)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor,

The Sister's Edge used to be a place to party for women. In recent weeks the format has changed from the common style of R&B dance, Tejano, Alternative mix, and an occasional Country and Western song to 1970's Techno. Rumor has it the owner is trying to get rid of a particular crowd of people. So who's to say that this style of music will continue but I would like for people to know that things have changed over the last three to four weeks. If they have not been out in a while, they may find themselves sitting around for hours to watch a maximum of three couples dancing at any given time. The owner made a comment that he doesn't care if we come to his club or not because he intends to change it into a men's country and western bar. Is this yet another tactic to scare off the unwanted element?

He has a right to run his club any way he chooses but I will take my money somewhere else or stay home before I go back to this club under this current management.

I have read articles (referring to) Sister's Edge as the hot place for women to go. I just want to let people know that it is not the hottest club anymore. The owner does not seem to care if he has 200 people in his club standing around for hours at a time. Sure he has his money but he's not making his customers happy. People generally don't buy drinks if they are not working up a sweat. If they are buying drinks they are getting drunk and angry that they have wasted there money to get into a dead club. What I have observed in the past is that people went to Sister's Edge to dance. This is what made it the 'HOT' spot. There hasn't been much dancing going on lately.

I thank you for your time,
Bobbie James
Austin

To all lesbians and anyone else who cares about what's right and what's wrong,

As you know, the women of QWC (Queer Women's Connection) held a protest against the owner of Sister's Edge and The Edge on October 18th and October 25th for verbal abuse and physical attacks he made against the women who patronize the club and those who work there.

On the 20th and the 27th of September, women who were displeased with the service that they paid for, asked for the return of their cover charge.

The reply from the owner was, "F_ck all you women, all you do is bitch." "Now I know why nobody will open up a women's bar." Then he said, "This is my bar. I'm sick of you women. I'll turn this into a male country bar." And, "YOU can be REPLACED !"

To the African American community, comments were made by an employee that they could "go back to Midtown." One customer was invited to tell the other Black customers that they could leave. Then the owner made the comment, "Now put some country music on and we'll get the rest of them out of here."

After all is said and done, he has chosen to put the blame on what he calls a disgruntled employee, instead of just looking in the mirror to find the one at fault.

WOMEN: You have chosen not to support Sister's Edge. But did you know that The Edge is also owned by the same man? And that it is managed by a man who has commented that, "Women need to get some pride."

The QWC does not care what their gender is. We are offended by the owner yelling at women, and by a boy trying to tell women what they need. And we refuse to take it anymore. So we ask you to join us in our protest against Sister's Edge and The Edge in Austin, until the owner addresses the issue at hand.

QWC was formed to build a safe place for women. We are trying to open a cooperatively-owned Womanspace ... Amazonia - A Place Where Women Rule!

QUEER WOMEN'S CONNECTION
Rachel J.
Austin

The Texas Triangle Welcomes Your Letters And Opinions

In order to be published, all letters must be signed with both first and last name and include a daytime telephone number. The Triangle reserves the right to edit for space, content and readability.

Please send your letters Attn: Editor, Texas Triangle 611 W. 6th, Austin TX 78701 or contact us at txtriangle@aol.com.

Sistersage's Horoscopes

Aries March 21st - April 20th

Watch your money this week. An expensive item seems to be something you must have, and you weigh your need versus the potential damage to your finances. A last minute invitation leads to merriment and a fun social evening. A true friend comes through for you and your relationship grows stronger as a result. A new hobby brings you in contact with creative, exciting people so you make new friends

Taurus April 21st - May 20th

You focus on your love life this week. Romance is important to you and today you think of someone you are in love with. If the relationship is faltering, you work to make improvements. If it is going well, you plan a special evening or weekend getaway. A romantic partner shares a fantasy that you are more than willing to bring to life. An old friend offers a nice treat to share. Good news comes now!

Gemini May 21st - June 20th

You have two personalities, a good twin and a bad twin. Well, it seems that both of your twins have decided to date other people. It is very hard to be torn between two lovers, yet you are just the one to pull this off for awhile. Perhaps in time, you will be able to decide which of these lucky people will win your heart. As in life, one is the winner and one the loser, yet in matters of the heart nothing is a loss.

Cancer June 21st - July 22nd

You will take charge of your life once and for all this week. Whatever you want you can achieve, but you have to go after it assertively. You are always thinking about ways to improve your financial situation and now you come upon a saving or investment plan that could be a great success for you. Before you make a promise, be sure you can keep it. Try not to disappoint your coworkers.

Leo July 23rd - Aug 22nd

The trouble with life lessons is that there are so many of them to learn. This week you will begin to learn something important in a relatively painless way and wonder why you didn't know it all along. Relax and let things flow in your personal relationships. Avoid feeling tense and you will accomplish all your goals in record time. A friend may suggest a last minute diversion this evening.

Virgo Aug 23rd - Sept 22nd

You worry a lot this week. Everything in life can't be as it should be, but you can do your best. Relax about a situation that disturbs you; there are good aspects to it of which you are unaware. Don't obsess over a romantic partner who is wrong for you. You tend to go over and over things in your mind, but you can find a lot more productive uses for your brain cells. Try to get more rest at this time!!!

Libra Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd

A friend who needs advice is ready to listen to you this week. It is very important that you express the truth to this person in a tactful way. You can't really slap people over the head with all the hidden facts of their lives without some warning. Timing is everything when you have to deliver this type of information. A nontraditional approach is sometimes the best way when you bear bad news.

Scorpio Oct 23rd - Nov 22nd

You may be a bit of a rebel this week. You will probably surprise your friends when you speak your mind. A bit of unexpected cash comes to you. A social event sounds like a bore until you actually arrive, and then you connect with sparkling people whose company you really enjoy. This will turn out to be a very nice evening full of fun and surprises. Trust your inner voices and have more confidence.

Sagittarius Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

You're thinking about your money situation this week. A friend who is good with finances offers you some advice that helps you make more of the assets you already have. Use all your creative potential when an inspiration strikes you; it is usually worth acting upon. Follow your heart and you will know the best course of action in a problem situation. Practice your meditation skills more now.

Capricorn Dec 22nd - Jan 19th

You enjoy being in a playful mood this week. Perhaps it is because of the holiday season, but you will have more fun and excitement now. You will have to be creative as you plan your activities. Use your lunch break for a quick shopping spree and you will find some great bargains. You will soon be filled with inspiration. If you deal with your feelings you will have more peace of mind!

Aquarius Jan 20th - Feb 18th

This week you will be looking at your friendships to see if these people are really your true friends. A friendship that once was very close feels quite distant now and it may be that you have completed your karma with this person. If this is true, it is best to move on with a smile. A career move seems a good opportunity, yet you are not entirely positive about it. Deal with your own ambivalence!

Pisces Feb 19th - March 20th

You need to have more confidence in yourself this week. Be willing to bet money on your hunches — you will be right. If there is something you really want, go after it. Sitting around locked in fear won't get you anywhere. Remember if you mess it up, you can always start over. When you take more risks, things begin to happen in your life.

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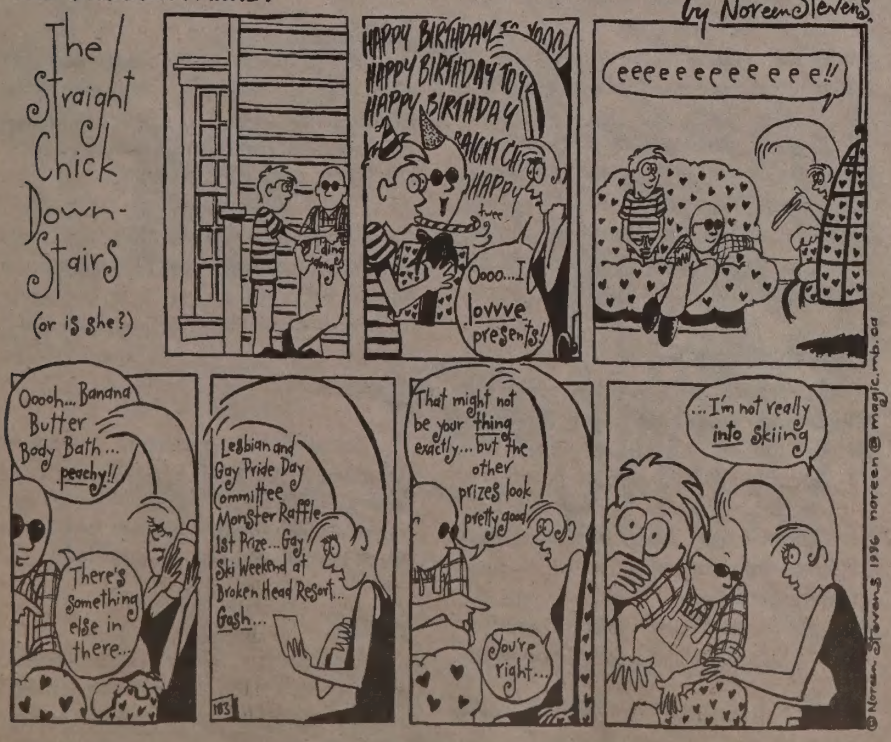
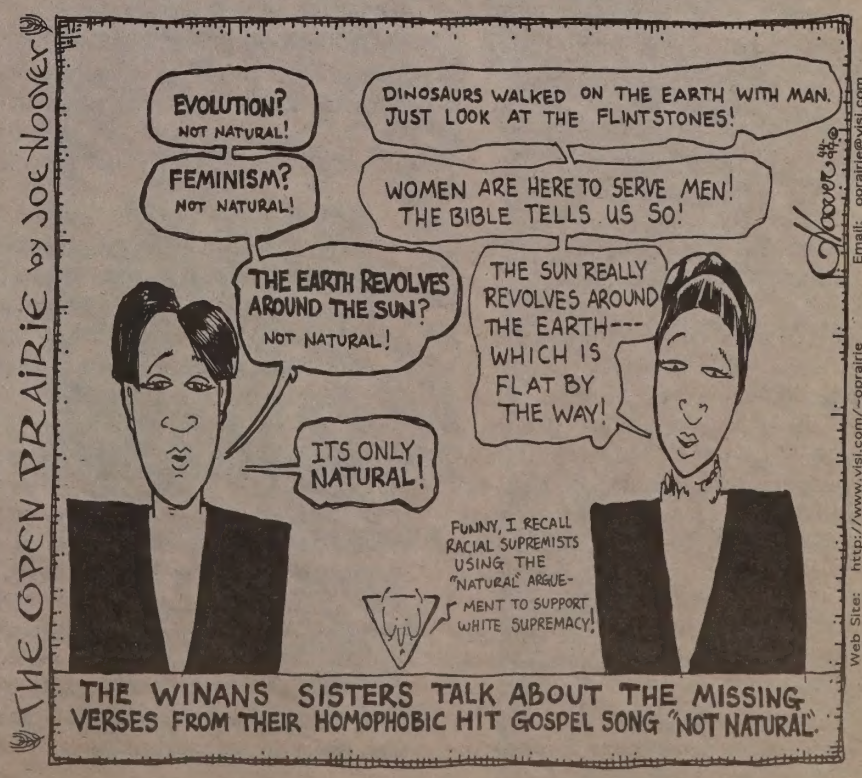




A WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TEXAS

NOV 20 THROUGH NOV 30

AUSTIN

ART

Women & Their Work presents **The Visceral Intellect**, featuring 19 artists exploring images of the body. 1710 Lavaca St.

Austin Museum of Art is hosting its **holiday art festival**, featuring painting, sculpture, photography and more at Laguna Gloria Nov 28 & 29, 10am-5pm. FREE.

THEATER

Public Domain will premiere **American Arcana**, the new play by Cyndi Williams about a groom trying to discover the truth about his absent bride. Nov 14-Dec 14. 512-474-6202

Zach Scott presents audience favorite **Forever Plaid**. Opens Nov 22. Tickets $22-26. 512-472-0541.

Frontera @ Hyde Park Theatre and **root wy'mn theatre company** present **no mo blues**. Nov 26-29. Tickets $10. 512-454-TIXS.

Frontera @ Hyde Park Theatre is holding **open auditions** for **Afterlives**, written by Deborah Hamilton-Lynn. Nov 23, 10am-4pm, at Hyde Park Theatre. Call 512-320-0808 for an appointment.

The Taffetas plays Zach Scott's Arena Stage in Austin through Jan. 1. Pictured (l-r) Rebecca Schoolar, Meredith Robertson, Lisa Robert, & Larrisa Wolcott. Photo: Kirk R. Tuck

DANCE

Visions in Rhythm, Tapestry's junior company presents a concert of new works at 8pm on Nov 22 at the Helm Fine Arts Center on the campus of St. Stephen's School , 2900 Bunny Run. 512-474-9846.

Performing Arts Center presents Ralph Lemon's **Geography** on Fri & Sat, Nov 21-22 at 8pm in the McCullough Theatre. 512-471-1444

Austin Contemporary Ballet will present the Christmas favorite **The Nutcracker** at the Paramount Theatre, Nov 28 & 29. 512-469-SHOW

MUSIC

Later at Live Oak Cabaret presents **Cafe Manhattan** at 8pm on Nov 22. The State Theatre, 719 Congress. $10. No reservations. 512-472-5143.

Austin Lyric Opera presents the opening of its 11th season with **Andrea Chenier** by Umberto Giordano. Nov 21-24 at Bass Concert Hall. 512-472-5992 or 1-800-31-OPERA.

American pianist **Awadagin Pratt** will perform at Bates Recital Hall on Nov 22 at 8pm. Tickets $26. 512-471-1444.

Pansy Division will play at Emo's with Tsunami on Nov 28. 603 Red River. Look for their new CD **"More Lovin' From Our Oven"** on Lookout Records.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Evolution of the Bluez Workshop, a musicians collective aimed at promoting an enhanced understanding of the roots of American music. Nov 22, 6-9pm at the Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th St.

Central East Austin Community Organization (CEACO) is in need of coats, blankets and non-perishable food items. Items can be dropped off at 1715 East 6th, Suite 100, 8am-5pm, M-F and 10am-2pm on Sat. 512-472-5575.

Day Without Art/ Body Count draws attention to the AIDS crisis, remembering those we have lost and sending a message of hope to those currently living with HIV. The event begins with a gathering at Cesar Chavez and Congress Ave at 6pm. Performances featuring Tina Marsh, Lourdes Perez, Boyd Vance and more will begin at 8:15. Don't forget to bring a flashlight. Mon Dec 1

The baby Treaty Oak project is a fundraiser for the **Planting For the Future Fund**. Persons interested in purchasing a baby Treaty Oak next Fall may call the Forestry Program now at 512-476-3809 to get on a waiting list.

Pansy Division will play in Austin on Nov. 28 at Emo's and in Houston on Nov. 29 at Fitzgerald's. L to R: Chris Freeman, Jon Ginoli, and Luis. Photo: Cathy Bauer

DALLAS

ART

The Bath House Cultural Center presents **"Art History of the Five Civilized Tribes"**, an exhibition of Native-American art. Through Nov 26.

Dallas Museum of Art presents **Faces of a New Nation: Colonial American Portraits**, which explores the development of American portraiture from its colonial roots through the revolutionary era. 214-922-1200.

PERFORMANCE

Charles Dickens' holiday classic, **A Christmas Carol** will play at Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora Street. Nov 29- Dec 28. 214-522-TIXX.

Justin Chin: These Nervous Days explores popular and mass culture, plague mythologies, folklore, and the metaphors of illness and protection. Nov 21-22. 8pm. The MAC. 214-953-1212.

MUSIC

Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents **Saint-Saens** and Bruckner, with Gunther Herbig conducting and Cecile Ousset on piano. Nov 20-23. 214-692-0203.

The Dallas Opera presents Benjamin Britten's **Billy Budd**. Through Nov 29. At the Music Hall at Fair Park. 214-443-1000.

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents **"Grammy!"** holiday concert with the Hamilton Park male chorale, beginning Nov 30. 1-800-494-TIXS.

Some Like It Cole, a musical comedy revue blending Cole Porter's greatest hit songs with some lesser known gems at the Tuna Little Theatre in the Wyndham Anatole Hotel. 1-800-654-9545 or 214-651-8862.

FORT WORTH

THEATRE

Stage West Theatre presents **Greetings!** by Tom Dudzick.. It will surprise you, make you laugh and your heart smile. Opens Nov 28. 817-784-9378.

Circle Theatre presents **North Pole Nightmare**, featuring Al Fresco's villainous attempt to destroy the North Pole in a quest for warmer weather. Nov 28-Dec 20. 817-877-3040.

HOUSTON

ART

The Museum of Fine Arts presents **The Dark Mirror: Picasso and Photography**, the first major exhibition of Picasso's photography in the U.S. 1001 Bissonnet. 713-639-7300

Contemporary Arts Museum will present **Alexis Rockman: Dioramas**, in which he incorporates actual objects into these whimsical, yet sometimes disturbing, dioramas. Opens Nov 21. 5216 Montrose Blvd. 713-284-8250.

Positive Art, a free art workshop for people with HIV/AIDS. Fridays through Dec 12, 1-4pm. Lunch and materials provided. Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose. 713-639-7500.

FILM

Landmark's River Oaks Theatre continues it's fall midnight film series - Stanley Kubrick's **Clockwork Orange**

will show Nov 21, **The Shining** will show Nov 22. 12009 West Gray. 713-524-2175.

Rice Cinema will show the premiere of Jean-Luc Godard's **For Ever Mozart**, a journey through European history as well as the filmmakers own past. Nov 22 at 7:30 and 9:30pm, Nov 23 at 7:30pm. 713-527-4853.

Sarah Sherburne Langdon
1767 Oil on canvas
by John Singleton Copley

PERFORMANCE

Tap Dogs will play at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center through Nov 23. 713-227-2787.

DeMystifying Magic, about a magician's career from age 5 to 85, will run though Nov 22 at the Absolute Theatre. 813 Richmond Ave. 713-726-8633.

The Houston Ballet presents a dazzling production of **The Nutcracker**, Nov 28- Dec 28, at the Crown Theater, Wortham Theater Center. 713-227-ARTS or 1-800-828-ARTS.

The Houston Symphony presents **Beethoven's Pastoral**, Nov 22-24 and **Messiaen's Turangalila**, Christoph Eschenbach conducting, Nov 29- Dec 1. 713-224-7575.

HEALTH

It's painless, quick, simple and free! **B.I.A. Testing** measures changing body composition due to HIV-related loss of lean body mass which is then replaced by fats and fluids. **Nov 24&25** at StatScript Pharmacy, 3407 Montrose. 713-522-7373.

Men's Network welcomes PFLAG "Fathers & Sons" who offer tips on coping with the often emotionally-stressful holiday season. $3-$5 donation requested, but not required. Tues, Nov 25, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave. 713-529-0037.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

LiB, a women's empowerment group meets the third Friday of each month at Bering United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The November 21 meeting will feature gay rights activist and Human Rights Campaign spokeswoman, **Candace Gingrich**. Networking begins at 6:30pm and the program will begin at 7pm. 713-529-0077.

The Dark Mirror: Picasso

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston seeks volunteers to assist callers with information regarding community activites and services. No experience required. Training and orientation, Fri Nov 21. 713-529-9615.

SAN ANTONIO

ART

Art students at the **Southwest Craft Center** will show the best of their work at **Endeavors 9**, the school's annual juried student exhibition, through Dec 24. 210-224-1848.

MUSIC

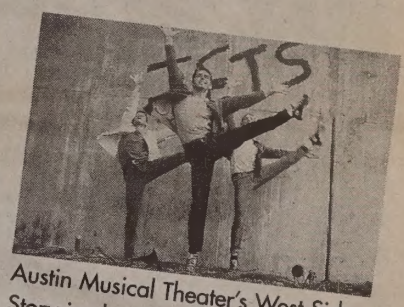
The San Antonio Symphony presents **The Nutcracker**, Nov 28-30 at Lila Cockrell Theatre, 200 E. Market St. 210-554-1000. **The Marriage of Figaro**, Mozart's comic masterpiece, will be presented on Thurs, Nov 20 & Sat Nov 22 at 8pm. Majestic Theatre, 226 E. Houston Ave. 210-224-9600.

FILM

Out of the Closet: Cinema!-The Celluloid Closet, a documentary showing the changing face of gay sexuality in cinema with narration by Lily Tomlin, will show Nov 21. **Orlando**, a comedy of sexual mores, attitudes and gender-switching will show Nov 28. All films at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 3126 N. St. Mary's. No charge, donations appreciated. 210-732-4300.

GALVESTON

The Grande 1894 Opera House presents the return of Didi Snavely, R.R., and Aunt Pearl in **A Tuna Christmas**, Nov 21-23. 409-765-1894 or 800-821-1894.



Austin Musical Theater's West Side Story is playing at the Paramount Theater in Austin through Nov. 23.

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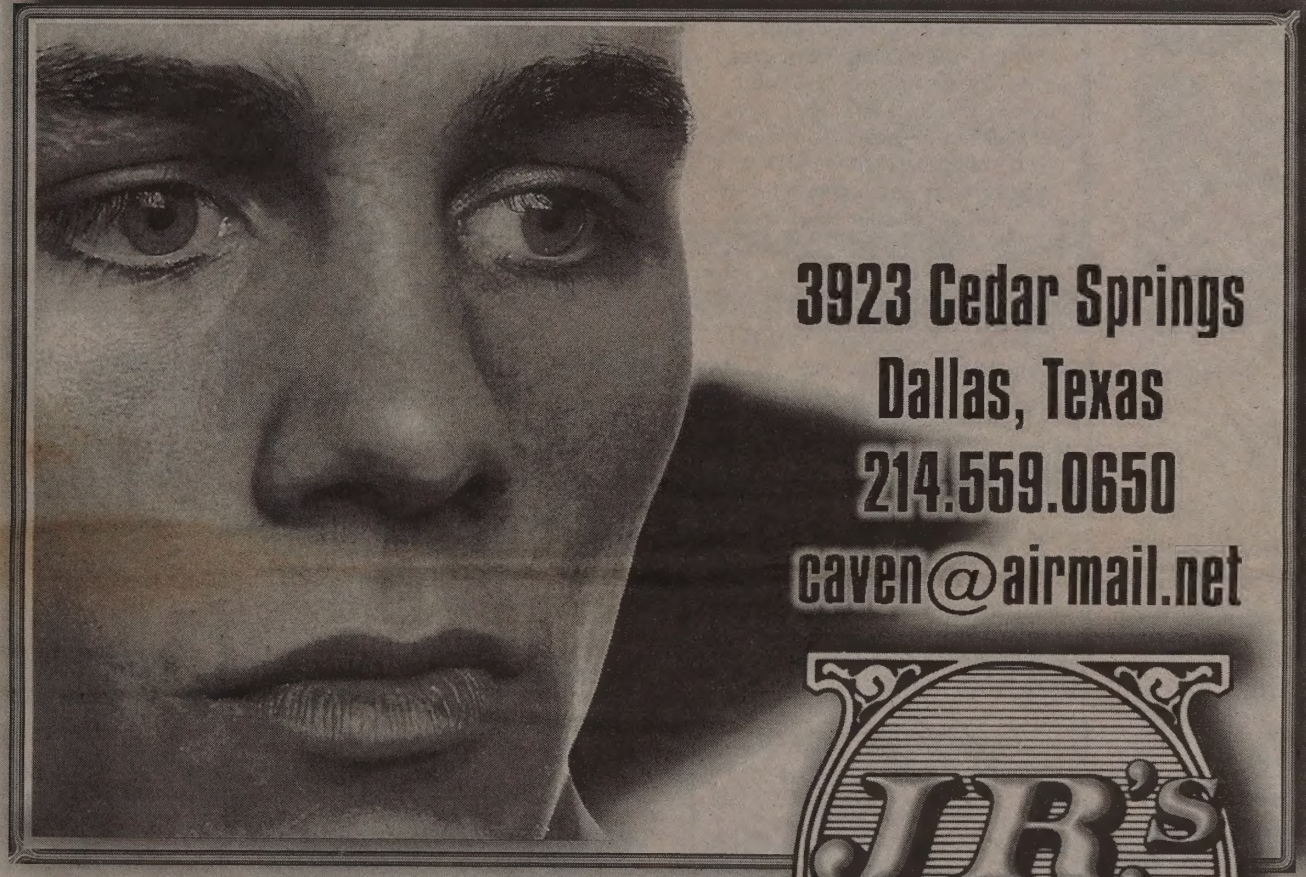

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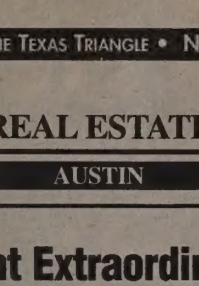

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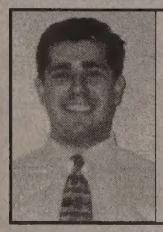

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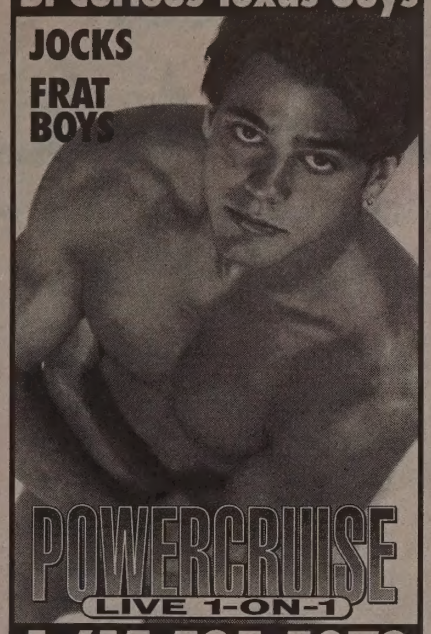

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There are three ways to place your Free 50-word Texas Triangle Personals ad. 1) You can fax your ad 24hrs. a day to (214) 599-0156, please include your name, contact number, mailing address and attach your Personals ad of 50 words or less. 2) You can call your ad in to 1-800-435-8407 Mon. - Fri. 9am-5pm ask for Personals, please have your ad ready. 3) You can mail your ad with your name, address, contact number to: Texas Triangle 4001-C Cedar Springs, Dallas, Texas 75219.

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Call 1-800-246-8166,enter your box # and private security code. You must use a touch tone phone only, and you must be over 18 years of age. IMPORTANT: By following the above, you agree to keep your voice mail introduction free of any last name, address, phone number or solicitation. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold Texas Triangle harmless from all costs, expenses (including attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or the recording placed by an advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. The Texas Triangle will not accept any ads that offer money, prizes or trips. The Texas Triangle reserves the right to refuse or edit any ad for any reason and assumes no liability for the content or reply to any advertisement.

To Respond to an ad:
To respond to an ad you have read in the Texas Triangle Personals call 1-900-884-8028. The cost of the call is $1.99 per minute and will be billed to your telephone bill. You must be 18 years of age or older to call. If you cannot access this number, your phone has been blocked from making 1-900 calls. Please contact the phone company to remove this block. After you have called enter the box number that appears in the ad. Remember, the date that appears in the ad is the voice mail expiration date. You have up until that date to leave a voice mail message for the person you are responding to.

TRIANGLE SUGGESTIONS:
The Texas Triangle suggests that you meet someone in a public place. We suggest you do not give out your home phone number, address until you feel comfortable with the person you have contacted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
1-800-435-8407

THE KEY TO THE CITIES:
DFW - Dallas & Fort Worth
AUS - Austin
HOU - Houston
SA - San Antonio

E-MAIL IS FREE MAIL
E-MAIL YOUR FREE AD TODAY! PERSONALS@TXTRIANGLE.COM. Include your name, phone #, and address.

LOVE AT FIRST @BYTE
E-MAIL YOUR FREE AD TODAY. Personals@txtriangle.com

MEN RELATIONSHIPS

NEED A SOULMATE
Have you found your soulmate yet? HAve you really tried? Someone's out here just for you. It could be an ad your reading, or maybe that persons best friend. Why don't you find out. Call 1-900-884-8028 $1.99/min. 18+ .

GAY WHITE CHRISTIAN
male Kileen, Belton area, 44 years of age looking for another white Christian male. #4803 (12/11) AUS

GAY HISPANIC MALE
Gay hispanic male, 29, 5'10, 174lbs., brown/brown, goatee mustache, hiv(+), physically fit, very attractive/masculine . Looking for long term relationship with.....Hiv (+)or (-)White males only, blond/brown hair, blue eyes preferred. Must be maculine, attractive, confident, physcially fit, not overweight. #4822 (12/11) AUS

TALL MUSCULAR
Educated professional. White male, late 30's, 6', 210 solid. Enjoys outdoors, sports, travel, motorcycles. Seeks rugged masculine man for dating and potential partbnership. Drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. All responses will be answered. I will be the one, you've been looking for call today! #4753 (11/27) AUS

FRIEND WANTED
Bi/GWM, 55 ISO settled 50+ Bi/GWM to share friendship and going places. I am dependable, patient, easy to please, easy going, well-organized and loves good food. I like traveling, most sporting events and life, but I hate going places by myself. #4743 (12/04) AUS

SOULMATE WANTED
Where's one guy in San Anotnio who feels like myself? I'm a gay male, 35, Italian/Irish. Attractive, 5'11", 154 lbs., masculine, versatile HIV+, excellent health. Seeks a gay male HIV+ masculine, versatile, honest for 1-1 committed realtionship. hiapnaics a plus. Give me a try you won't be disappointed. Come on live a little. #4762 (12/04) AUS

WHERE ARE YOU?
UT Student, 22, 5'7", 140lbs, Br/Br HW proportinate. ISO posssible ETR with professional GWM. You are blonde and handsome, caring, financially secure and ready to take care of this "little boy". I enjoy dining out, traveling, outdoors, shopping and most of all I love to be pampered! Will travel to DFW, SA or HOU. 4849 (12/25) AUS

ISO ROMANCE GHM
35 nonsmoker, seeks romantic, sensitive and intelligent gentleman. I have a palce in my heart for the right guy. Me: 5'7 1/2", 145 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, moustache. Interests: teaching, current events, royalty, Broadway music (especialy Patti LuPone and Elaine Page.) Shall we dance? #4693 (10/30) AUS

MANLY MAN SEEKS SAME!
Fit, masculine, outdoorsmen, 6', 175 lbs., 45 handsome, degreed professional, new to town, well traveled, humorous, many interests, including Barton Springs, music, reading, movies, plays, sci-fi, plants, scuba, ski, seeks fun-loving, educated, drug free, masculine, white male, nonsmoker, stable to share good times, new adventures, cuddling, atumn weather. #4739 (12/04) AUS

SEIZE THE MOMENT
Explore life with a 34 year old romantic, passionate, professional Hispanic who enjoys comfortable at home or out on the town. Seeks sincere, intelligent, 21-34 year olds, GW/H/A for friendship/possible relationship. Seize the moment, then fill it full. #4814 (12/11) AUS

SENSE OF HUMOR
Seek A/W/H/GM who has a sense of humor and a desire for fun, someone who is honest,c aring, attractive, between 20-35 in good shape. Me: GAM, 27, 5'9", 153 lbs., a student, attractive, smooth. I enjoy working out, sports, mocvies, romantic walks and dinners. #4821 (12/11) AUS

E-Mail Your FREE AD Anytime!

IT'S FREE!

YOUNG GUY WANTED!
White/Hispanic/Asian male, 18-28, smooth, clean -shaven, nonsmoker for friendship/relationship, preferably long term. I'm 40 (but still cool!), caring, giving, romantic, kind. Likes: movies, alternative music, traveling, dining, sports, outdoors, spending time with someone special. College students a plus. Prefer AUS- SA, Central Texas. #4742 (12/04) AUS

EXPAND SOME HORIZONS
1600 Glen Rose ChaseBGM, 29, 6'2", 230 lbs., attractive, bearded, red/br, educated, artistic, and politically aware, seeks men 25-45 with no awareness of societal or intellectual limitation, race and physical type unimportant. LTR not ultimate goal, looking for multi-level connections rooted in mututaly enricvhing and mind blowing encounters. #4820 (12/11) AUS

ASIAN OR HISPANIC SOUGHT
for long term realtionship. Prefer someone under 5'10", and below 160 lbs. Age not a factor. Me: 52 years old, 5'8", 165 lbs. Enjoy theatre, nature, travel and home. #4805 (12/04) AUS

FRIEND/SOULMATE?FUN!!!
GHM, 240, 40yr, Seeks 25035 slim/GWM/GHM 150-175 "Fem a plus" ME: Hiv— Friendly, great sense of humor. Tired of being bored. Love music, movies. YOU: the same. Non-smoke/no drugs. Let's connect, have fun, possible relationship 4844 (12/25) AUS

GBM SEEKS GWM
for friendship and possible more. I'm 28, 5'7", 150 lbs. 30 " waist, attractive and relationhsip oriented. You: 21-35 and physically and spiritually appealing. Keep looking all you want. Too long, too gone! #4731 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

MORE THAN A ONE NIGHT
STAND. Attractive, 28 yr old, 6'1", 190 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, Romantic, passionate, professional, secure Christian. Loves television, movies, sports, travel, long walks and an occasional night out. Looking to build a loving and lasting realtionship witha man who possessses similiar interests and traits. #4768 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

UNPRETENTIOUS
Single professional gay black male, mid 30's seeking to meet a single white / hispanic male, 30 - 45 who is very masculine, emotionally and financially secure average looking, weight and height proportionate. Drug and disease free. Patient and the ability to smile are pluses. #4767 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

NEWEST KID IN TOWN
GBM, 25 years old, 6'4", 190 lbs., seeks GWm with nice personallity and good sense of humor, honesty a must looking for a friend to hang with and maybe who knows. #4796 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

LOOKING FOR GWM
25-35, to share, going to clubs, romantic dinners and just cuddling in fornt of the fireplace, possible relationship. #4713 (11/06) DFW/FT. Worth

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
not to spend it with the right mate. GWM/38/184/6'00"/Bm /Brn, seeking LTR with parnter to love, cherish, adore and spend thislife with. I am gentle, passionate, romantic, sensitive and mature with great sense of humor. Seeking similary minded non-smoking, d/d free man 32-42 desiring soulmate for lifelong intimate union. 4852 (12/25) DFW/FT. Worth

WANTED PLAYMATES
Married 35, GHM, attractive/masculine, cleancut. Looking for hot playmates. #4813 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

GAM 27
Seeking a quality and decent GWM between 23-35. Do you believe that a lasting relationsip stems from a great friendship and companionship? The belief in honesty, seincerity, sensitivity, devotion, expressiveness, patience and yourself? The importance of staying in shape, being drug and smoke free? Then let's complete eachother. #4817 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

SOMEONE TO LOVE
I am 5'5", 153 lbs., dark brown hair, balding on top, 38, bluish green eyes. i am seeking someone who is laid back and down to earth, a person who is not a perfectionist, non-drinker, I am a smoker. If this sound like you lets get together and talk. I am open for suggestions. #4833 (12/13) DFW/FT. Worth

LEATHER LIFESTYLE
Gay white male 34, brown hair, brown eyes, 6', in shape, hairy chest considered good looking. Seeking someone masculin, agressive 21-35 year old. #4818 (12/11) HOU

FRIENDS FIRST
Then who knows. Gay white male, 36, 5'9", 175 lbs., clean-shaven, blonde hair, hazel eyes, relationship oriented. Seeks one mature, gay whote male, 18-30. Live in North suburbia, enjoy athletic endevors, classic movies, coffee houses and more. So take a chance. #4801 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

LOTS OF BAGGAGE
I can handle yours if you can handle mine. Can yoiu cook? I can clean. Seeking my age 36 or younger. Nice looking, you be the same. No fats/fems. Call me. #4712 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

LOOKING FOR SPECIAL
Friend. Yes: I'm gay and looking for a woman friends to just be friends. I'm 6'3", 240 lbs., 36, 40, race open. Age: 30-40, 5'10 - 6'. Just friends only. #4741 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

26 GWM
Clean cut Clean shaven guy, looking for guys my age who ar clean cut, clean shaven for fun. must be friendly and outgoing. #4800 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

GAY BLACK MALE
40 years old ISO GWM 35 to 40, versatile, honest, moderate drinker, smoker or nonsmoker. I'm 5'10 200 lbs., in good shape, love a good work out, good food, movies, art, cold nights, suit and tie, leather boots and jeans, nod resses...so call-now! Let's talk, see what happens. #4769 (12/04) Ft. Worth

LOOKING FOR A BOYFRIEND
I'm 29, 5'8", 140 lbs., 30 W dark brown hair and eyes, attractive youthful, professional appearance. Enjjoy music, the beach, coffeeshops, hiking, swimming, and just being with a special guy. Looking for someone my age or younger, slender build, similiar interests, masculine. Want a boyfriend, no -one-noight stands. #4729 (11/16) HOU

COWBOY UP!
GWM, 36, 6'2", masculine, athletic build, professional, down to earth, cowboy at heart. Seeks same for possible LTR. If you love country music, if you have a good head on your shoulders and are drug free, then lets sit a spell. Let's fall to pieces together! #4714 (12/04) HOU

UP FRONT AND HONEST
Passive GWM, 33, 160 lbs., kind, loyal by nature, genuine at heart. Cute I'm told, but professional and perfect, I'm not. ISO a sincere, earthy, hairy chested GWM top 28-42 for potential friendship/companionship. Enjoy movies, humor, relaxing, family, dancing, chats and warm hugs. Take a chance on this nice guy. #4763 (12/04) HOU

SEEKING YOUNGER MEN
GWM, 58, 6'4", 200 lbs., trim grayingbeard, college professor, seeking intelligent mature minded man, slim to average build, 28-42, who enjoys the compnay of an oplder man, for friendship and sharing interests. Ia m very relationship oriented. #4811 (12/11) HOU

PANIC ATTACK?
WM, 6'1", brown/blue, 26 190lbs.. New to HOU and very lonely. Seeking WM's 18-40 who are dealing with panic or anxiety disorders, like myself. Want to form meaningful relationships with down to earth types only, I'm very friendly. #4804 (12/04) HOU

STUNNING GAY MALE
I am a combination of Black, white, American Indian, with slight bit of Asian. 26, 6' 165 lbs., extremely pretty, but masculine and classical looks. Seeking long lasting relationship with happy, sincere, generous, businessman, sensitive, athletic and disease free. I am very spoiled with a severe allergic reaction to small apartment dwellings. #4765 (12/04) HOU

ATTORNEYS SEEKS DADDY'S BOY
GWM seeks young 20-35 Latino male for companionshipo and possible soulmate. Want to share intimate and playful relationship. Me: 31, 5'11", 210#, "Ruff" Beard. You: Young, energetic, can go all night long. 4845 (12/25) HOU

HOT 22 YO LATINO
Well hung seeks physically fit white/latino also well endowed. Playful, fun and drug free. 4847 (12/25) SA

OLD FASHIONED ROMANITC
24,GWM, Br/Bl, College frat boy away at school. Bayish good looks and body. Born in Italy, raised in HOU and DFW. Enjoy music, art travel, looking, vintage wine, tats and leather. Looking for older aggressive masculine man of any race for LTR. 4850 (12/25) Statewide

WEST TEXAS BOY
Sincere gay Hipsanic male 27, 5'7", 150 lbs., black hair brown eyes. Excellent HIV + condition, very loving and caring bottom, seekign 18-35 GWM or GHM tops for long term relationships. I'm into movies dancing, clubbing, family and friends, give me a try you won't be disappointed. #4504 (10/30) Statewide

COUNTRY BOY
Country boy needs a realtionship in the heart of Texas. #4819 (12/20) Statewide

MEET A MAN TODAY!
Leave your own ad here! Place your Instant voice mail ad and start getting it. What are you waiting for? Go on pick up the phone and dial, you know you would love it right now...Instant access to your own encounters ad. Call 1-900-884-8028 only $1.99/min. 18+.

AFRAID TO LEAVE YOUR #
Call and place your own Instant ad, it's just like voice mail. Record a voice mail introduction , you'll receive a box # and your own security code, then leave someone that box # to respond to. It's that easy.

LEAVING AUS FOR THE
WEEKEND? Wanna meet another HOT guy in another Texas city? Place your ad in our new Statewide category. Call Mon.-Fri. 1-800-435-8407 9am-6pm

MEN CASUAL ENCOUNTERS

BREAK ME IN
Very bi-curious SWM, 33, seeks clean shaven, smooth bodied man or couple to introduce me to many pleasures. I'm 6 ft. 190#, broad shouldered, attractive, athletic(run-bike-lift), hairy chest, muscular, intelligent, no D/D. YOU: under 36 smooth, great shape, very good looking, noD/D. Any race 4846 (12/25) AUS

To Respond To An Ad Call: 1-900-884-8028 $1.99/min. 18+

ARE YOU A SUBMISSIVE
GWM seeking more than a one-night stand? Must be nonsmoker, HIV-, 18-35, and in shape. A hairy chest is a plus. I'm into bondage and discipline, safe, sane, environment. Limits respected. Your collar is waiting. Must have transportation. Novices okay. Respond now. #1177 (12/04) AUS

HOT BOTTOM SERVICES
Hot very well-endowed, in SHAPE, energetic healthy, (HIV -), men 18-48. Height /Weight prop. Me: healthy, sexy gay white male. Youthful 5'11", 160 lbs., hairy chest , lean swimmers build, bubble butt - EAGER to please one on one or many tops. Hot uninhibited eager bottom #4709 (12/11) AUS

TRY IT
BI WM, 35, 6', 165 lbs., wants to gather a group of two to five dominanat men for golden showers. Into spanking, and oral. Good looking men of all races, but especially Hispanics wencouraged to call. Discretion assures. Groups or singles welcome. #4816 (12/11) AUS

PROFESSIONAL
male looking for guys into groups, three ways. PLease be good looking masculine and very uninhibited. Looking for guys ages 25-38, ht. Wt. Proportionate. Top, looking for one or more bottoms, and other tops for wild fun. Let's party. #4764 (12/04) AUS

LEATHER MEN WANTED
Masculine, 25, good looking, bottom, looking for agressive domnant masculine men. Please be over 6', good body, very agressive, interested in all types of fun. (12/11) #4727 DFW

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF BIG D?
Wanna meet another HOT guy in another city for new encounters? Place your ad in our new STATEWIDE ~~category~~. Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm DFW/FT. Worth

TOP GUN
Married (M/F) bottom guy in search of well-endowed top guy for mutual pleasure. PLease be healthy, HIV-, ht/wt. proportionate, masculine, attractive, affectionate, nice, ages 45-55, smoke/drug-free, and from North DFW suburbs. Discretion assured. #4761 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

WANNA MEET SOMEONE
IN ANOTHER TEXAS CITY? Place your FREE ad in our new STATEWIDE CATEGORY. Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon-Fri. 9am-6pm HOU

COUPLE EARLY 30's
Looking to meet other couples . Both very versatile, looking to meet same. We enjoy going dancing, partys, movies, or just cuddling at home. Also single men interested in 3 ways please call. #4760 (12/04) HOU

WANTED: SUBMISSIVE BOY
42, 5'8", 175, brown/blue, fit, dominant top in search of obedient boytoy bottom, 25-40 for safe and sane action including but not limited to cbt, tt, bd and more. #4795 (12/11) HOU

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY
White male couple wants to play and have fun together, 34+ 40 average guys. Love to play and spend time with other gay couples or singles. One neg, and one HIV +. Have safe sex or will play withother HIV + people. Militart backgorund. #4738 (12/04) HOU

STATE WIDE

MEET ANOTHER GUY IN
ANOTHER TEXAS CITY. Do you travel outside of SA? Wanna hook up with someone in DFW, AUS, or HOU? Place your FREE ad in our new STATEWIDE category. Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon-Fri. 9am-6pm SA

LIVE IN DFW TRAVEL TO
HOU? IF this is you , and you would like to meet someone in a different city, place an ad HERE! Call 1-800-435-8407 Mon-Fri 9am-6pm to place your FREE ad by phone. Statewide

LIVE OUTSIDE OF AUS
DFW/FT. WORTH, HOU, SA? Place your ad here! This is for people looking to meet people in smaller cities, or in another city other than your own! CALL in your ad 1-800-435-8407 Mon-Fri. 9am-6pm. Statewide

EAST TEXAS
Tyler and Lake Palestine area- top wanted! You: over 35, hot, healthy, aggressive and hung. Me: w/m, 44 seeking action. #4799 (12/11) Statewide

GOING TO RIO GRANDE
VALLEY. Discree HIspanic male 28, 195 lbs., masculine, mustache and versatile, looking for masculine white men with mustache ages 35-50 who would like to have a good time while visiting South Texas. Call atleast one week in advance. #4744 (12/04) Statewide

WOMEN RELATIONSHIPS

E-MAIL : PERSONALS@TXTRIANGLE.COM

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE
GBF, 37, soft butch ina realtionship, but, I'm seeking another woman to spend time with. I'm, seekeing a feminine lesbian who is preferably also ina relationship, but wants/needs more time, conversation, maybe leading to companionship./ If interested call, let's talk, become friends. Let's see what happens. #4758 (12/04) AUS

NEW TO AUS
Gay white female, new to AUS, 35 years old, androgynous, love spontaneous women willing to try anything onece. Animal lover, enjoy alternative/dance music, old movies and traveilng. Want to make friends and take it from there.. I am hoping to find a roommate with similiar interests. Let's meet over dinner/ #4815 (12/11) AUS

SINGLE WHITE GAY FEMALE
27, height/weight proportionate. Physically fit and toned. Nonsmoker, drug/disease free. I love music, good conversation, the outdoors, bicycling and bars on occasion. I am upfront and honest and y ou must be the same. Looking for uncomplicated friendship/possible more.. Should be in AUS or clsoe by. #4810 (12/11) AUS

OVEREDUCATED BOHEMIAN
I'm an overeducated part-Bohemian, part-professional, politically involved lefty, 34 year old, attractive mom of a two year old. Do you like swimming in water holes, biking, movies, large animals, dressing for the opera, escaping to Mexico? I love a good Margarita, but please no users/smokers. Friends first. #4812 (12/11) AUS

WATCH THIS
I'll show you love that you've dreamed of. I'm 32, brown hair, hazel eyes. Love to go out or just stay in ahd hold one another. Lokking for someone who likes sam 22-34 Feminine, attractive d/d free. Call me and let me make your dreams come true. 4851 (12/25) DFW/FT. Worth

BISEXUAL MALE SEEKS
Female for life long friendship and to possibly be the mother of my child. Attractive,intelligent, HIV negative. I'm warm and caring you must be the same. I think both mother and father are important, if you feel the same, contact me. #4729 (11/16) HOU

DESPERATLEY SEEKING
gay feminine mature, loyal, fun-loving, affectionate lady who enjoy's quiet romantic times at thome as well as occasional outings for long term relationship. Prefer ages 25-35, I am a gay black female, Leo, butch, 5'7", of slightly heavy build. #4803 (12/11) SA

GAY TEEN BONHAM
Seeks friend to correspond with and to become friends with. I am 5' 7" light brown hair and blue eyes. I'm active in sports and literature. There aren't many like me where I'm from in Bonham. I'm looking for a close friendship with another young gay teen. Smoker or nonsmoker. #1185 (12/04) Statewide

MEET WOMEN FOR FREE!
about women like me. I'm sexy, sensual, and love to explore my more agressive side. I love reading the Triangle Personals and hope to read something about you soon. Call 1-900-884-8028 to place your instant ad today.

BI WHITE FEMALE
5,10", 28 year old educated, business owner. I am looking for someone who is a crazy, fun loving and off the wall as I am. Call me we'll have a drink and gossip! No butch types please. #4797 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

TRANS GENDERED

INTERESTED in SOMETHING...
different? Are you looking for a TS, or TV? Leave an ad here and maybe you'll get lucky. Call 1-800-435-8407 to place your FREE Personals ad today. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

LESBIAN IN WAITING
Attractive passable transsexual seeks attractive Bi/W/F for fun and possible LTR. Must understand I am pre-op (still a man down-stairs, getting bigger up-stairs) Serious inquiries only pease. No time for games. #4798 (12/11) DFW/FT. Worth

SA SEEKS FEM
Bi WM, 48 years old, 5'8", 180 lbs., seeking feminin, passable. TS/TV for LTR. ME, professional, discrete gentlemen that enjoys movies, dining out, and travel, know how to treat a special lady. All call answered. #4740 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

SIZZLING
Stunning gay TV, sexpot seeks same to share life's ABC's: Ambition, barfly, cunning, drinking, evil, freaky, greedy, immoral Jezebel, kinky, lewd, materialistic, nympho, outrageously promiscuous, queen, radical, smoking, trade, uninhibited, vengence, XXX-sex, yummy, Zero guilt! Only, hardcore, high maintenace, flawless tramps need apply. #4759 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

SPECIAL EDITION
38, black hair brown eyes, 5'6", in search of , 33-50, who is a good communicator, easy going, masculine/not macho, who enjoys doing different things, and is willing to be a teacher for I am willing to learn. No head or heart games, sincere only need apply. #4754 (11/27) DFW/FT. Worth

PRETTY TRANSEXUAL
Very pretty and convincing transsexual wants to meet a young good-looking man with a good heart. #4691 (10/30) SA

GAY RODEO WEEKEND
Sunday morning-Hot cowboy wearing black cowboy hat, white tee shirt, driving a dark blue truck. Asked directions to DFW. Smiled and winked at me real sexy. Should have offered to show you the way. Loved your eyes and moustache. Desire meeting you!!! 4853 (12/25) HOU

GO AHEAD TRY IT YOU'll LIKE IT
You know you want to. Simply fax the free ad form with your Personals ad of 50 words or less, you'll be assigned your own voice mail box # and private security code. Fax it free 24 hrs. a day 214-599-0156. It's that easy, give it a try!

SA SEEKS FEM
Bi WM, 48 years old, 5'8", 180 lbs., seeking feminin, passable. TS/TV for LTR. ME, professional, discrete gentlemen that enjoys movies, dining out, and travel, know how to treat a special lady. All call answered. #4740 (12/04) DFW/FT. Worth

E-MAIL YOUR FREE AD:
PERSONALS@TXTRIANGLE.COM
please include your name address & phone #

FREE & EASY...

FREE Personals Ad, FREE Voice Mail, FREE Message Retrieval!

We'll contact you with the information you need to record your FREE voice mail & pick up your messages.

Fax Or Mail This Form FREE!

with your ad of 50 words or less

Name _____

Contact Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

☐ YES Call me at _____ with my info to record my voice mail. You may leave the info on my voice mail or answering machine

CATEGORIES

☐ MEN (relationship) ☐ MEN (casual encounters)
☐ WOMEN (relationship) ☐ WOMEN (casual encounters)
☐ TRANSGENDERED (or those seeking them)
☐ HIT OR MISS (lost or missed connections) ☐ STATEWIDE

WRITE YOUR AD HERE:

HEADLINE: _____

50 WORDS OR LESS: _____

FAX FREE!
(214)
599-0156

The Texas Triangle

BY MAIL!
Texas Triangle
4001-C Cedar Springs
Dallas, TX 75219

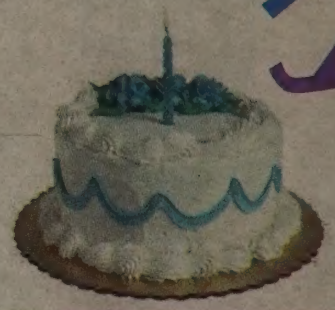
E-MAIL YOUR FREE AD:
PERSONALS@TXTRIANGLE.COM

FAX YOUR FREE AD
(214) 599-0156

QUESTIONS? CALL:
1-800-435-8407

1st Year Anniversary

Kolors



BLOW OUT WEEKEND

Thurs. Nov. 27

THANKSGIVING DINNER BUFFET

with all the trimmings, 5pm

Then

Kourtney Wells Man Hunt Night #2

The Wet Boxer Shorts Contest

11pm

Fri. Nov. 28

THE CAST OF KOLORS

from 9-11, featuring

Sweet Savage

Lady Shawn

Trella Thomas

Carme del Rio

Sherri Powers

Eartha Quake, Vanessa Duvall & Edvidge

Then at 11

The Miss Gay Kolors Pageant

Winners Receive over 750.00 in cash & prizes • No Entry Fee

Sat. Nov. 29

1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

50¢ Wells, 8-10

1.75 Well & Beer

10 - Close

Sweet Savage's Suicide Saturday

Show, 11pm

Sun. Nov. 30

$1 Vodka Drinks

12 Noon to 5pm with Buffet

At 10pm

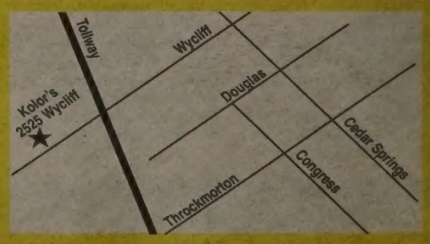
United Court Lone Star Empire

with MC Donna Dumé and friends

Featuring Dallas' Hottest Male Dancers Daily at 5pm for 1 Year

New for Friday, Starting Dec. 5, Talent Contest

11pm Showtime • Erica Andrews Night



http://inrcity.com/kolors/